Toys for Tots launched to spread Christmas cheer for kids. PAGE 2
CLI opens new training facility. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 200

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Bolaven expected to pass thru Marianas on Tuesday

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office special assistant Franklin Babauta met yesterday morning with the CNMI Multi-Agency Coordination Team, composed of government agencies that include the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the CNMI Public School System (which operates emergency shelters), Commonwealth Ports Authority, Department of Public Safety, and other nonprofit agencies like the American Red Cross in preparation for the upcoming storm.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios speaks during the meeting to prepare for Tropical Storm Bolaven, which is expected to intensify into a typhoon today, and is predicted to pass through the Marianas on Tuesday.

» BOG temporarily closes Guam, NMI branches due to Bolaven. PAGE 4
» USCG places Guam, CNMI ports on heavy weather alert. PAGE 5
» Flood watch in effect until Wednesday. PAGE 5

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tropical Storm Bolaven, which is expected to intensify into a typhoon today, is predicted to pass through the Marianas on Tuesday.

Based on forecasts from the National Weather Service in Guam, Bolaven is expected to pass through the Marianas on Tuesday afternoon or early Tuesday evening.

As of 5pm press time, NWS sees Bolaven passing through the Marianas just south of

See BOLAVEN on Page 4

New 70-hour work schedule set

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has issued a directive to impose additional cost-cutting measures and cut the work schedule of employees under Executive Branch departments

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Flores files 2 revenue-generating bills

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) has formally introduced two revenue generating bills during the House of Representatives session on Thursday.

Flores' House Bill 20-78 seeks to increase the tax

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10TH GREEN GALA

MINA awards Sheila Babauta, 4-H Club, Marianas Creations

LEIGH GASES

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance Annual Green Awards winners including the Environmental Champion: Sheila Babauta, fourth from left, Green Business of the Year: Marianas Creations' Elina Gharti Chhetri, center; and the Environmental Heroes: 4-H Marianas' Robert Suzuki, fourth from right, and Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, third from right, pose with their trophies and MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, far right, and chair Frankie Eliptico, second from right, during the MINA 10th Annual Green Gala at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Friday night.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance awarded winners of their Green Awards at their annual Green Gala last Friday night at a lively and packed Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

In this 10th edition of the gala, the Environmental Champion Award was awarded to Sheila Babauta for her demonstration of

See MINA on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Night Scent Restaurant is celebrating its return to dine-in service by introducing an everyday lunch buffet.
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Former President Donald Trump is backing Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio to succeed Kevin McCarthy as House speaker.
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WORLD
Israeli soldiers fought to repel Hamas militants Sunday, a day after they broke out of the blockaded Gaza Strip.
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Local

Toys for Tots launched to spread Christmas cheer for kids

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Led by Lt. Col. Dean Damin, U.S. Marines service members heading this year's Toys for Tots stand with officials from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Office of Women's Affairs under the Office of the Governor, and the Northern Marianas College after the official launching of the program last Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Toys for Tots program anticipates to bring more smiles to children in the CNMI this Christmas season with the official launching of the program last Wednesday at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's monthly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

This year, the U.S. Marine Corps, which spearheads the program in the region, is partnering with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Northern Marianas College, the Office of the Governor through first lady Wella Palacios, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, and the CNMI's Women's Association for the Toys for Tots program, according to Lt. Col. Dean Damin, operations officer for Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz in Guam.

"We look forward to another great year," Damin said.

He added that a drive will be held with the help of local families that will receive the gifts, and the team is encouraged to see the willingness of the community to come together to make Christmas a great experience for a child while bringing a message of hope.

"… it's not just donating a toy. It actually brings joy and happiness to kids and really kind of makes Christmas for probably some kids that might not have such a great experience otherwise," he said. "The Toys for Tots program would not be possible if it [weren't] for the community coming together and combining the resources for the same cause."

Last year the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which is an annual partner in the Toys for Tot program, helped collect 2,602 of a reported 4,227 toys on Saipan.

As has become tradition, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will once again be soliciting their businesses to display drop-off boxes at their businesses where the public can drop off their donations of new, unwrapped toys that will be handed out to underprivileged children this Christmas.

"We've been partnering with Toys for Tots for as long as I've been involved with the Chamber. …This is one of the ways that the Chamber works to give back to our community," Chamber president Joseph Guerrero told reporters.

Sign up for NANOWRIMO

NaNoWriMo—National Novel Writing Month—approaches. The challenge is to write a 50,000 word novel in thirty days. Why? Because each of us has a story to tell and why not?

NaNoWriMo is a great tool for getting it done!

1. NaNoWriMo gives you a deadline, which is a critical element to finishing anything, especially for procrastinators and writers.

2. Joining the challenge puts you in touch with tens of thousands of writers and opens a magic channel to unimaginable resources to help on the way.

3. November will come and go. For ordinary people, it will be like any other November. But if you take the NaNoWrimo challenge, at the end of the month, you'll have a first draft novel. You'll be a novelist! And it will feel very different—wonderful, exhilarating, astounding.

So find NaNoWriMo online and sign up. It's free. Keep checking the MarianasWritersMovement.org website for local news, tips and tricks, and write-in dates.

Joint the fun! ***(PR)***

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01
Saipan Tribune was among the most frequently used and trusted local news sources among CNMI residents surveyed
02
72%
of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be "trustworthy" or "very trustworthy"
03
66%
of CNMI residents surveyed reported using Saipan Tribune "often" or "all the time" as a local news source
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*SOURCE:
i Minagahet - Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Islands
https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/
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CLI opens new training facility

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Students take a picture next beside the recently unveiled John F. Kennedy monument at the Center for Living Independently's new training facility grand opening ceremony last Friday on Capital Hill.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Members of the Center for Living Independently and dignitaries including Lt Gov. David M Apatang and Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Blas Camacho cut the ribbon to open CLI's new training facility on Capital Hill last Friday.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

It was a ceremony full of smiles as the Center for Living Independently opened its new Commonwealth Disability Training Center last Friday on Capital Hill.

Many dignitaries, including Lt Gov. David M Apatang, Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Blas Camacho, as well as dozens of community members were present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which caps the project after a four-year wait. The $800,000 project was funded by the Office of Insular Affairs through the CNMI Capital Improvement Program.

The training center itself features training rooms, a staff office, a back patio, an American with Disabilities Act-compliant kitchen, bathrooms, and a covered walkway connecting to the Center for Living Independently office.

"With this new building, we can introduce more consumers to see the CLI program," said CLI board president Ermiterio Fitial. "With its many upgraded facilities, we will be a one-stop training center for individuals with disabilities to learn the necessary skills needed to be independent, such as cleaning around their homes, planting and tending to the garden, or even cooking in the kitchen."

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Guests helped themselves to the refreshments that were served after the Center for Living Independently's new training facility grand opening ceremony last Friday on Capital Hill.

CLI executive director Susan Satur echoed his excitement: "This building is going to impact so many lives. We are going to have a real training facility here in the CNMI." She thanked all partners in making the facility a reality.

CLI consumer Stephen Sablan shared his excitement for the new facility, "I am so happy that this building is open. Thank you to director Sue, the board of directors, everybody! Thank you to you guys!" he said "[The building] is going to help us get trained and work with a lot of consumers. Thank you, guys! Thank you, thank you."

The training facility also features a bust of former U.S. president John F Kennedy, courtesy of the Saipan Mayor's Office. According to Camacho, the Kennedy monument had been taken off display for a while. After finding it and having it refurbished and redesigned, the Saipan Mayor's Office donated the monument to CLI to be displayed at the new training facility, especially since the late president was an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

CHCC, Rota Office of Aging, 10 others awarded $4.3M in funding to lower electricity spending

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twelve CNMI agencies and projects, including the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Rota Office of Aging, and Tinian Public Library, were awarded on Monday a total of $4.3 million federal funding intended to lower their electricity spending.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that the $4,391,599 in total Energizing Insular Communities funding will help end the Marianas' dependence on expensive and dirty fossil fuel.

For solar photovoltaics, CHCC was awarded $909,291; Rota Office of Aging (26kW), $262,907; Tinian Public Library (48kW), $232,718; Executive Office Building (186 kW), $646,891; and Northern Marianas Technical Institute (53 kW), $450,000.

The Department of Corrections was awarded $443,691 for 286 kW; Rota solar street lights, $211,727; Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center (41kW), $174,291; and Saipan/Northern Islands Municipal Council (5kW), $65,641.

The Division of Energy Appliance Rebate Program was awarded $363,061, while the CNMI Energy Task Force and Commonwealth Assistance for Renewable Energy received $316,005 and $315,176, respectively.

The U.S. Congress appropriated the Energizing Insular Communities funding in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023, Public Law 117-328.

Sablan has been working year after year to increase this funding stream.

The CNMI received $15.5 million in fiscal year 2023, which was the largest amount ever.

Sablan said the Biden administration's fiscal year 2024 budget recommended continuing at that level as has the Democratic-controlled Senate, but the House Republicans want to cut $6.5 million from the program.

KARIDAT
Faith, Hope and
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) ACCOUNTANT

For more information, job description and an application visit the Karidat main office in Dandan Village, Dandan Road, or interested applicants can email: info@karidat.org to receive a position description and fillable application form.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, October 20, 2023 AT 4:00 PM

CNMI SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE
P.O. Box 5729 CHRB I Saipan, MP 96950 I Capitol Hill, Building #1326 I No. (670) 664-4750

October 06, 2023

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its 2nd regular board meeting on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 10:00am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
V. Public Comments
VI. Old Business
a. Nursing MOA
VII. New Business
a. Budget and Financial Report
b. GSSL awards for Fall 2023
c. Award amounts
d. Appeals
VIII. Administrator's Report and Updates
IX. Announcement and Next Meeting
X. Adjournment

/s/ Mildred Sablan-Camacho, CSO Administrator

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BOG temporarily closes Guam, NMI branches due to Bolaven

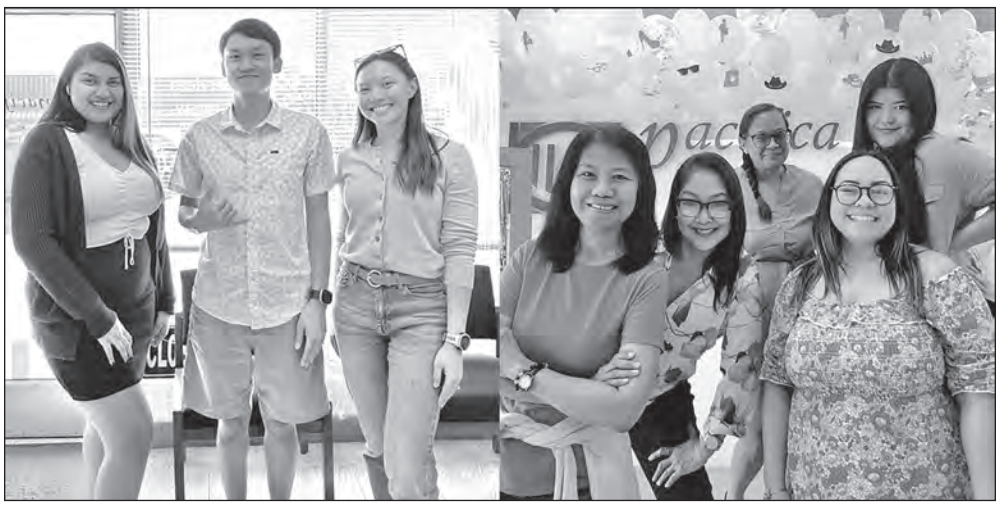
HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced yesterday the temporary closure of its branches in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands due to approaching Tropical Storm Bolaven.

Effective Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, Bank of Guam headquarters, along with all Guam and CNMI branches will close at 12pm and their Familia Contact Center will close at 2pm until further notice.

In preparation for the storm, Bank of Guam encourages residents to:

- Withdraw cash
- Download our mobile banking app
- Secure your homes and clear loose items around your yard
- Have a flashlight and radio ready with fresh batteries
- Secure important documents and belongings on high ground
- Fill up your gas tanks
- Do your laundry

Bank of Guam will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates via its website and social media. In the meantime, customers are advised to stay informed about Tropical Storm Bolaven through official government channels, local news outlets, and weather advisories. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NATIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK

Team Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. celebrated National Customer Service Week last Friday and sported the color pink in an effort to bring awareness of the disease affecting countless women and their families during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In the photo are staff members, from left, Sheela Saraff, Shigeki Tenorio, Loriann Rabe, Tess Gella, Jane Madarang, Jessica Sablan, Dionne Camacho, and Dana Manglona.

BOLAVEN

From page 1

Guam and north of Rota.

At around 6pm yesterday, the center of Tropical Storm Bolaven was located about 585 miles southeast of Saipan and about 580 miles east-southeast of Guam. It was last seen moving west-northwest at 5 miles per hour and is expected to maintain this general course with a slight increase in forward speed through this afternoon.

As of 6pm, Bolaven's maximum sustained winds remain at 40 mph but is forecasted to intensify through today before becoming a typhoon.

The difference between a tropical storm and a typhoon lies in the system's wind speed; a system is considered a tropical storm when winds reach 39 mph and it graduates to a typhoon when it reaches around 74 mph.

Currently, Bolaven's tropical storm force winds extend outward from the center up to 140 miles to the north and up to 85 miles to the south.

Because of Bolaven's anticipated threat, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has hoisted a Typhoon Watch for the CNMI.

Palacios also maintained Typhoon Condition 3 for the CNMI, which means that damaging winds of 39 mph or more are possible Tuesday morning and typhoon force winds of 74 mph or greater are possible Tuesday afternoon or evening.

Because Bolaven is only expected to intensify as it makes its way to the Marianas, meetings will be had today to determine whether government offices and public schools will be shut down to convert them into shelters.

As for the rest of the community, Palacios is urging everyone to prepare for the storm as it slowly approaches.

In preparation for anticipated tropical storm and typhoon-strength winds, Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management advise CNMI residents to take the following preparatory measures:

- Put gas in vehicles and obtain fuel for generators.
- Secure loose debris and belongings.
- Those living in flood-prone areas should clear drainage areas and unblock storm drains to minimize flooding.
- Secure important documents such as birth certificates, tax papers, and insurance documents, and keep copies in a weather-proof bag.
- Prepare to board up windows or close shutters.
- Have a prepared emergency preparedness kit with first-aid kits, batteries, flashlights, toiletries, and a portable stove in your household.
- Stock up on food and water, as appropriate, for your household.

"Again, this is an evolving situation—the direction, speed, intensification rate, and other attributes of the storm may change over the next few hours. The CNMI Office of the Governor and CNMI HSEM will be monitoring the movement of the intensifying storm, continue to consult with the National Weather Service and other agencies, and continue to provide updates when available and when appropriate. Information regarding shelter activations, government office closures, and other important updates will also be announced," stated Palacios.

MINA

From page 1

extraordinary commitment to the environment and preservation of the CNMI's natural resources.

The Environmental Heroes Award was awarded to the 4-H Marianas for their club whose students exemplify an eagerness to learn about and demonstrate a passion for conservation.

The Green Business of the Year award—awarded to a business that is committed to conservation by incorporating the green business culture through its entire organization—landed on the doorsteps of Marianas Creations, owned by Elina Gharti Chhetri.

Babauta, after the awards ceremony, expressed her gratitude for the recognition. "I'm shocked and so happy for this recognition from my community of fellow advocates and fellow environmentalists. We do important work and it can be so draining on the spirit and the mind—but to be recognized by my peers and my family, it's such a wonderful feeling. I'm so grateful."

As for the importance of being stewards for the environment, Babauta shared, "We are connected to our lands and our waters. We come from this place that we call home. This is the environment that shaped who I am. It's shaped many of the leaders in our community. It shapes our children. That's the reason why we really need to take care of our environment. When we take care of our environment, take care of our oceans and our lands, the environment will take care of us."

Robert Suzuki Jr., who received the award on behalf of 4-H Marianas, said that the award is for the youth. "I'm grateful and thankful for the opportunity, but this is really for the youth of the CNMI because they're the ones that are really working hard with MINA and organizations like MINA to help make changes in our community for sustainability in the environment and their future."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FLORES

From page 1

imposed on soft drink and alcoholic beverage containers. Her other bill, H.B. 23-79, would increase marriage license application fees.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) referred the two bills to the Committee on Ways and Means chaired by Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

H.B. 23-78 proposes to increase the tax imposed on all soft drink beverage containers from the current 5 cents per container to 15 cents.

The legislation also proposes to impose a tax upon each container of any alcoholic beverage from the current 5 cents per container to 15 cents.

Flores stated in the legislation that, in light of their health risks, it is imperative to implement necessary measures that would minimize the immoderate consumptions of soft drinks and alcoholic beverages.

She said it is not the intent of her proposed legislation to prohibit consumption of these beverages, but to provide a deterrence to prevent associated health risks from occurring at a faster rate.

With respect to H.B. 23-79, it proposes to increase marriage license applications by nonresidents from the current $125 to $250, and by residents from the current $50 to $100.

The other fees are ceremony fees (non-residents) $75; ceremony fees (residents) $30; documentation fee $25; and marriage license copy $25.

Flores stated in the bill that, in light of the Commonwealth's present economic circumstances, increasing marriage license application fees will generate additional revenue for the government.

She said the funds realized can be used to improve government resources and services that are intended to improve the well-being and overall livelihood for the people who reside in the CNMI.

NEW

From page 1

and agencies from 72 hours per pay period to 70 hours, effective last Oct. 4.

Palacios said he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang appreciate the employees' cooperation and commitment to continuing to provide quality public programs and services despite these austerity measures.

"We are working to accelerate infrastructure projects, diversify our economy, move federal dollars through the economy, and strengthen tax collection efforts, among other positive economic developments, to limit the duration of these austerity measures and restore regular operations in the soonest possible time," said the governor in issuing Directive 2024-001 last Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Palacios said it has become necessary to impose additional cost-cutting measures and implement the appropriation levels, in light of the recent passage of Public Law 23-09, or the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Appropriations Act.

Section 1 of the directive states that effective Oct. 4, 2023, all Executive Branch departments and agencies of the CNMI government shall continue to observe austerity measures in fiscal year 2024, with exemptions to federally funded programs.

Employees of the Executive Branch departments and agencies shall make the necessary adjustments as it relates to work hours, pay, and leave.

Under subsection (a), austerity Monday will continue to be observed every Monday following payday.

Additionally, every Friday, government hours of operations for departments and agencies of the Executive Branch will be from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The Executive Branch will remain open during regular working hours, 7:30am-4:30pm, on all other weekdays.

Palacios said a department or agency will not be required to implement reduced working hours if the principal executive of a department or agency presents an expenditure plan for personnel that does not exceed the appropriation threshold established by Public Law 23-09.

He has to first approve that plan after it is reviewed by the special assistant for Management and Budget and the secretary of Finance.

The governor said Executive Branch departments and agencies may continue to modify operational schedules in order to remain open for reasons of public safety, health, and welfare of the community, provided expenditures stay within budgetary limits.

Austerity that falls on a holiday will be observed on the next day following the paid holiday.

Under Section 2, austerity measures will also be applied to law enforcement effectuating a two-hour adjustment within the pay period not to exceed 84 hours per pay period for police and corrections personnel and 104 hours for firefighters.

Palacios said the director of the Office of Personnel Management shall take such actions as may be necessary to implement Sections 1 and 2 of the austerity directive.

Section 4 pertaining to the use of revolving funds for operations states that, as provided in Section 604 of Public Law 23-09, revolving account limitations and restrictions are suspended in fiscal year 2024.

Palacios said a revolving account may be expended by the department or agency for operational uses such as fuel, communications, office supplies, and interisland travel for training purposes, and that all expenditures will be subject to funding availability.

He said pursuant to Section 601 (a) of Public Law 23-09, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. monthly utility billings for all executive departments and agencies shall be applied to all revolving accounts until exhausted.

Palacios said general fund utility budget allocations will be provided as necessary.

Effective last April 24, the governor began cutting the work schedule of some Executive Branch employees to just 72 hours and implemented the austerity Monday.

USCG places Guam, CNMI ports on heavy weather alert

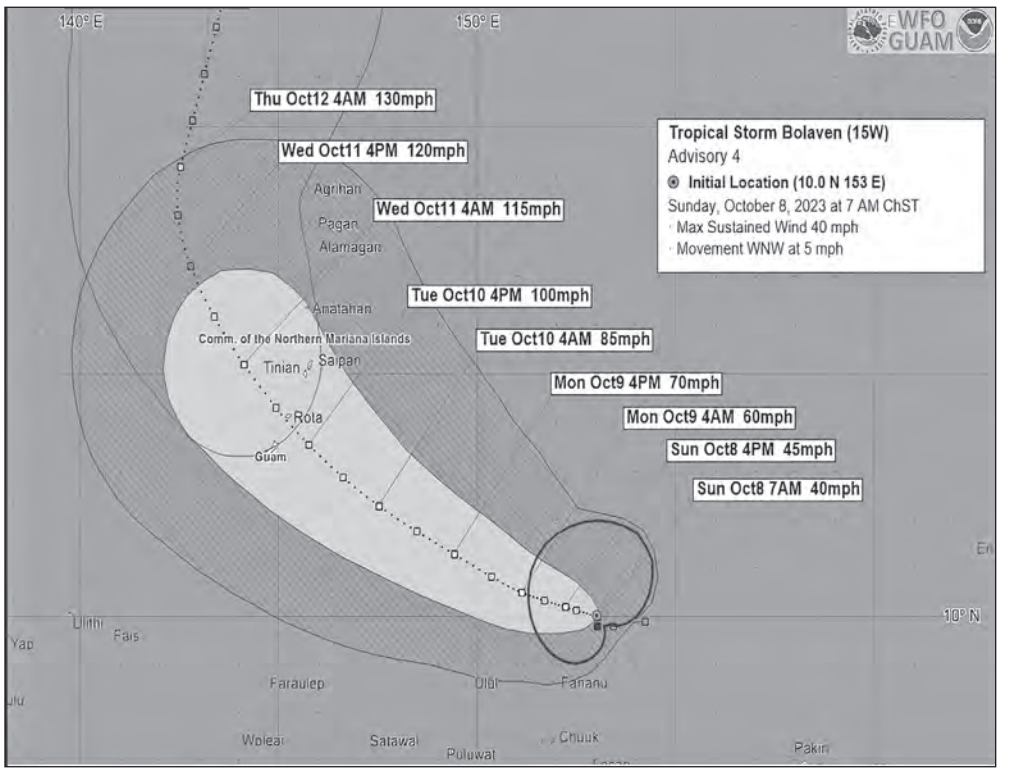
SANTA RITA, Guam— The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port established Port Heavy Weather Condition X-RAY for the ports of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as of 10am, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023.

This means winds above 39 miles per hour are expected within 48 hours.

The COTP upgraded the condition level in preparation for Tropical Storm Bolaven.

As of 7am, the National Weather Service forecast projects the storm to make its closest point of approach to Rota early Tuesday morning. Guam and the CNMI are under a typhoon watch and a good watch.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam is working with port partners and the commercial industry to assess and mitigate risks to the port and vessels despite the holiday weekend by reviewing heavy weather plans and ensuring facilities and vessels are ready for the storm well in advance.



One of the National Weather Service's projected tracks for Tropical Storm Bolaven.

As the storm approaches, if necessary, the COTP will direct a shift to Port Heavy Weather Condition YANKEE, meaning strong winds, faster than 39 miles per hour, are expected within the next 24 hours. Simply put, it's a sign that bad weather is coming soon.

Here is what happens when PHWC Yankee is declared:

1. All commercial ships still present need to get ready to finish loading and unloading their cargo and leave the ports of Guam and the CNMI.

2. If there are ships that can't move on their own, like those with no power, or other types of vessels like barges and drydocks that can't go out to sea, they must quickly send a written request to the COTP and have a plan to ride out the storm.

3. Once PHWC Yankee is in effect, all big commercial ships, those equal to or bigger than 200 tons, must leave, and no more ships are allowed to enter the ports.

4. If it gets even worse, and PHWC Zulu is declared, the ports and marinas will be completely closed to any incoming traffic, and all cargo and bunker operations will stop.

Remember, these actions are taken to keep everyone safe during the bad weather, reduce possible damage, and protect the port for faster reopening to resume the flow of vital commerce and any necessary relief supplies.

The U.S. Coast Guard sets Port Heavy Weather Conditions for the maritime community and ports. They generally describe restrictions needed to protect life, vessels, facilities, ports, and the environment from severe weather. PHWCs are similar to the Tropical Cyclone Conditions of Readiness, but officials do not always set them in tandem. ***(USCG)***

Flood watch in effect until Wednesday

The public is being informed that a flood watch is in effect from Monday afternoon through Wednesday as Tropical Storm Bolaven continues to approach the Marianas. This means flash flooding caused by excessive rainfall is possible.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, flooding may occur on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from Monday afternoon through Wednesday. Excessive runoff may result in flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Streams may rise out of their banks. Flash flooding may occur in poor drainage and urban areas. Extensive street flooding and flooding of creeks and rivers are possible.

As Tropical Storm Bolaven gets closer, showers are expected to increase significantly. Latest model guidance indicates rainfall potential of 6 to 10 inches, with locally heavier amounts in excess of 12 inches possible. This would result in extensive flash flooding across the islands.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are advised to monitor later forecasts and be alert for possible flood warnings to be issued. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-24
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) BRAND NEW UTILITY VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW HEAVY DUTY TRUCK FOR SAIPAN SEAPORT POLICE **(IFB-002-24)"** TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
DATE: October 09, 2023

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-24
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW HEAVY DUTY TRUCK FOR SAIPAN SEAPORT POLICE"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW HEAVY DUTY TRUCK FOR SAIPAN SEAPORT POLICE (IFB-002-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
DATE: October 09, 2023

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-005-23
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2023-01-02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning September 27, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport or at the CPA Office located at the Francisco Manglona Borja/ Tinian International Airport. CPA offices are closed every other Monday beginning Monday, October 2, 2023 for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts of the advertisement area and other requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of $100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Tinian Port Manager, Antonio L. Borja through email at alborja@cnmiports.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than October 11, 2023.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-005-23." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, October 31, 2023, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on October 31, 2023, at 3:00p.m. at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

9/25/2023
Date

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP23-GOV-42300102: PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST OCTOBER 25, 2023

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Provision of Environmental Consultant Services for Capital Improvement Projects funded through the 702 Covenant funding by the Office of Insular Affairs, US Department of Interior.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **September 25, 2023** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids). Proposals must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work.

A Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held via Zoom Meetings at **10:00 AM on October 10, 2023.** Questions regarding this RFP may be sumitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan-Salas at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than 4:00 PM ChST October 16, 2023. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective proposers.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, October 25, 2023.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (1) Qualifications of personnel or sub-consultants – 30%; (2) Past Experience and Performance for NEPA Compliance – 40%; and (3) Project Methodology – 30%.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

ARC celebrates 45 years of service, innovation, and hope in CNMI

Today marks the 45th anniversary of the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Authorized in 1978 by the Washington, D.C. board of governors and concurred by then U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the NMI Chapter began its 45-year journey of preventing and alleviating human suffering in the face of emergencies.

With initial assistance from the already established Guam Chapter, a local NMI board was selected and appointed Gilbert C. Ada as its first chairman.

In 1986, after a reorganization plan was implemented, a new six-member board of directors was chosen and led by then senator Juan "Pan" Guerrero. Chairman Guerrero initiated the construction of a chapter headquarters in an old World Warr II building near the Saipan International Airport.

Over the years countless dedicated volunteers have responded and helped the CNMI through every natural disaster that has impacted the Commonwealth.

Whether providing food and shelter to families impacted by Super Typhoon Kim in 1986, providing emergency supplies during Typhoon Wilda, Zelda, Keith, Chata'an, or financial assistance in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor, Yutu, and Mawar, the NMI Red Cross has been a beacon of light in the darkness, providing hope to those in need.

The chapter and its services are built on a foundation of volunteers and community support. There has been an exceptional level of selfless contributions by so many that have enabled the Red Cross to make a difference here in the Commonwealth.

NMI volunteers also responded to New York City during 911, Hurricanes' Hugo, Sandy, Katrina, Maria, and Ian.

Thanks to successful fundraising activities like Club 200 and the Walkathon, the NMI community has empowered the NMI Chapter to carry out its humanitarian mission locally or around the nation.

While disaster preparedness and response are at the core of Red Cross activities, the NMI chapter also actively supports many other critical programs. These include CPR/First Aid and lifeguard certification, Learn to Swim, fire prevention, volunteer and youth engagement as well as crisis support for military service members and their families which includes training on International Humanitarian Law.

The chapter has had a long proud history of collaborating with the federal and local governments as well as other nonprofit organizations. These key partnerships have enabled the Red Cross to better help vulnerable and underserved families. Red Cross disaster services have been and will always be available for free to everyone throughout the CNMI.

"Our chapter will stand another 45 years or more. Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers of our chapters for exemplary services in the making of these 45 years," said founding board member Juan Pan Guerrero.

Past board chair Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero added, "I the Red Cross! You never know when you and your family will need to prepare for an emergency."

Jean Lourdes Sablan, an honorary board member, said "The many selfless volunteers and management of the American Red Cross these past 31 years since I became a volunteer, have only increased my pride in being part of this organization. It's given me purpose to carry on and with my remaining years, continue to serve our community and beyond."

Lifeguard instructor trainer Glenn Policare said, "The NMI Red Cross team of leaders and volunteers showed me the importance and the true meaning of community".

For more information, visit redcross.org/nmi or call the NMI Chapter office at (670) 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Red Cross prepares to respond as new storm bears down on Guam

A little over four months after Typhoon Mawar left major damage on Guam and the Mariana Islands, a second storm is headed to the region and could cause new destruction in the U.S. territories. The American Red Cross is preparing to respond as it continues to help people impacted by the earlier storm.

Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands are on high alert. Invest 98W has now been upgraded to a tropical storm. Typhoon watch is now in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The storm is expected to impact weather conditions starting today, Monday, and as much of eight inches of rain is possible.

The two territories have a population of almost 200,000 people, many of whom live in coastal communities. Mawar made landfall in May and left most of the islands without power, damaged water systems and communication towers and heavily damaged or destroyed a number of structures. Hundreds of Red Cross disaster workers from all over the country deployed to the region to help. The Red Cross is still there, working with partners to support people as they get back on their feet.

The Red Cross has already deployed relief supplies and more than a dozen disaster responders, including a National Incident Command Team, to help the region get ready for the storm. Red Cross disaster workers will work with officials and partners to get help to where it is needed as quickly as possible.

Guam is home to several major U.S. military facilities and the Red Cross will support service members, their families and veterans if needed as we did after Typhoon Mawar.

Storm safety

The climate crisis is causing storms to grow faster and bring heavier rain. Here are steps people on the islands should follow to help them stay safe:

■ If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Know where you will go, how you will get there and where you will stay.

■ Plan to shelter safely. Be ready to live without power, water, gas, phone and internet for a long time.

■ Be aware that flooding can happen quickly. Have a plan to evacuate fast before floodwaters reach you.

■ Plan to stay connected. Sign up for free emergency alerts from your local government. Monitor local weather and news.

■ Have a backup battery or a way to charge your cell phone.

■ Understand the types of alerts that you may receive and have a plan to respond when you receive them.

*A WATCH means Be Prepared!

*A WARNING means Take Action!

■ Gather food, water and medicine. Pack at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. If you plan to shelter at home, gather at least two weeks of supplies. Have a 1-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.

■ Keep personal, financial, and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up).

■ Secure or bring inside outdoor items such as lawn furniture and trash cans that could be picked up by high winds and hurt someone. Protect windows with permanent storm shutters or sheeting.

■ Download the free Red Cross First Aid app so you'll know what to do if emergency help is delayed and the free Emergency app for weather alerts, open Red Cross shelter locations and safety steps for different emergencies. Choose whether you want to view the content in English or Spanish with an easy-to-find language selector. Find these and all of the Red Cross apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to redcross.org/apps.

How to help

You can help people affected by disasters like storms, wildfires, and countless other crises by making a gift to Red Cross Disaster Relief. Blood donations are also critically important to ensure patient needs are met. Financial contributions enable the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small. Visit redcross.org, call 800-RED CROSS, or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a $10 donation. ***(Red Cross)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-24
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FOUR (4) BRAND NEW VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING OCTOBER 09, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF FOUR (04) BRAND NEW VEHICLES TO THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (IFB-001-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
DATE: October 09, 2023

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NMHC IFB 2024-001

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: November 08, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS) TINIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REHABILITATION PROJECT- PHASE II

Project Package will be available on October 09, 2023, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office in Tinian located at the NMC Campus in Tinian on October 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m. In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-23-2304

Marianas Visitors Authority Representation, Promotional and Public Relations Services for the JAPAN MARKET

Submission /Closing Date: **October 10, 2023 Time: 3:00 PM ChST**

Submit sealed proposals to:
Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after September 11, 2023 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA-RFP-23-2304 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION, PROMOTIONAL, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES FOR THE JAPAN MARKET."**

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier mail service on or before October 10, 2023, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Acting Procurement Officer Ms. Carol Chargualaf in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to cchargualaf@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00 PM., Chamorro Standard Time on September 29, 2023.

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson,
MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director, MVA

Feds meet to discuss Maui wildfire response operations

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS EDWARD WARGO

FEMA Region 9 Regional Administrator Robert Fenton briefs partner agencies on a summary of damage assessments in Lahaina, Hawaii Sept. 26, 2023. Members of partner agencies including the Maui Police Department, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, FEMA, and the EPA attended the briefing to discuss past, present and future recovery operations.

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS EDWARD WARGO

EPA Incident Commander Steve Calanog briefs U.S.Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon on EPA operations during recovery efforts in Lahaina, Hawaii Sept. 26, 2023. Topics included previously conducted operations along with current and upcoming recovery plans, as well as an emphasis on the importance of cultural and historical sites and concerns for future recovery operations.

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS EDWARD WARGO

Sgt. Keoki Santos of the Maui Police Department addresses agencies responding to recovery operations in Lahaina, Hawaii.

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Environmental Protection Agency members met to discuss Maui wildfire response and recovery operations near the Lahaina Harbor last Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Maui wildfire response and recovery effort leaders and personnel, including FEMA Region 9 regional administrator Robert Fenton, USACE commanding general Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, U.S. Coast Guard Incident commander Cmdr. Melanie Burnham, EPA incident commander Steve Calanog, FEMA external affairs officer Kirk Hanlin, and Sgt. Keoki Santos of the Maui Police Department met in Lahaina to discuss the status of various missions.

Topics included previously conducted operations along with current and upcoming recovery plans, as well as an emphasis on the importance of cultural and historical sites and concerns for future recovery operations.

"The Coast Guard is mindful of the magnitude of this disaster and the devastating toll it has on the Maui community," said Cdr. Melanie Burnham, U.S. Coast Guard Emergency Support Function #10 incident commander. "We are dedicated to helping the community recover and mitigating risks to the environment. We are working in close coordination with our agency partners and cultural monitors to include the native Hawaiian community." ***(USCG)***

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS EDWARD WARGO

Cmdr. Melanie Burnham of the U.S. Coast Guard briefs U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commanding general Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon on Sept. 26, 2023, on Coast Guard operations during recovery efforts in Lahaina, Hawaii. Operations already conducted and plans for future recovery operations were discussed.

PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS EDWARD WARGO

FEMA External Affairs Officer Kirk Hanlin briefs U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon on FEMA operations during recovery efforts in Lahaina, Hawaii Sept. 26, 2023. Topics included previously conducted operations along with current and upcoming recovery plans, as well as an emphasis on the importance of cultural and historical sites and concerns for future recovery operations.

San Nicolas introduces resolution supporting veterans with disabilities

GUAM—Guam Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, together with 11 other senators introduced a resolution that supports legislation in Washington, D.C. that will cover the costs of shipping for adaptive vehicles for qualified veterans with disabilities last Oct. 6.

Moylan

San Nicolas

Under federal law, financial assistance is provided to qualified veterans with disabilities to purchase adaptive vehicles or other conveyances. Currently, such vehicles are not available on Guam, costing thousands of dollars to qualified disabled veterans. Resolution 218-37 supports a measure, introduced in January 2023 by Delegate James Moylan (R-GU), that will amend existing Federal law, requiring the Office of Veteran Affairs to cover shipping costs.

"I am a veteran and, as lawmakers, we should work to improve the livelihoods of the communities we serve," San Nicolas, a Democrat and author of Resolution 218-37 and the legislative chairman of the Committee on Veteran Affairs. "Amending the Federal law will not only cover shipping costs for adaptive vehicles or other conveyances for disabled veterans, who qualify for financial assistance, but will also help them maintain their independence."

Resolution 218-37 is an act relative to supporting H.R. 522, Deliver for Veterans Act, introduced in the United States House of Representatives, which aims to cover the shipping and delivery expenses of adaptive vehicles provided for veterans with disabilities.

"I would like to thank Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, the chairman of the Veteran Affairs Legislative Committee for introducing a resolution supporting H.R. 522, Deliver For Veterans Act and for his unwavering commitment to our veterans," said Moylan, Guam's representative to the U.S. House of Representatives. "Senator San Nicolas and I are both veterans and have served our country with pride. We understand the needs of our local veterans and are committed to providing them with the support they deserve. During my campaign for office, I pledged to represent our island's veterans in Congress if elected. The Deliver for Veterans Act is one of the ways we are achieving this goal. I will continue to fight for our veterans in Congress and ensure they receive the recognition and support they deserve."

The bipartisan resolution is co-sponsored by Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Vice Speaker Tina R. Muna Barnes, and Sens. Joanne Brown, Roy A.B. Quinata, Frank Blas, Jr., Chris Barnett, Amanda L. Shelton, Christopher Duenas, Joe S. San Agustin, Jesse A. Lujan, and William A. Parkinson.

"I really want to thank Senator San Nicolas for leading the charge on this important issue," said Senator Parkinson. "As a caretaker for my veteran father for a long time, I know how difficult accessibility and access can be for veterans with disabilities. This resolution helps veterans, and their families maintain dignity and self-sufficiency." ***(PR)***

American Samoa's Amata condemns attacks in Israel

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata (R-AS), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, released the following statement condemning the attacks against Israel.

Amata

"I've had the great joy to visit Israel and to see Jerusalem, an important and historic site to people of faith all over the world. The people of Israel are enduring sudden brutal attacks, loss of life, and destruction. We must stand together in fully condemning this lawless violence, and insisting internationally that Hamas stops this attack without delay. The people of Israel should not have to face the threat of rockets, explosions and indiscriminate killing. The State of Israel is a dependable friend to the United States, and an allied democracy in an important region of the world. I've met with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and been briefed on Israel's security, and there is great respect for the capabilities of the Israel Defense Forces. Our prayers and thoughts, as well as our nation's diplomatic efforts and strong support, are with the people of Israel in this time." ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Going forward, adult supervision badly needed for House GOP

Sometimes you can see an outcome from a mile away, and it's still a shock when it happens.

So it was when a sliver of the House GOP succeeded in removing Kevin McCarthy as speaker, the first time in American history the leader of the U.S. House has been ousted. His standing seemed precarious from the start in January, when it took 15 votes from his GOP colleagues to secure the number needed for the prize. With members such as Florida's Matt Gaetz and Colorado's Lauren Boebert seemingly interested more in preening for their Trumpian base than cutting legislative deals, it seemed just a matter of time until this moment arrived.

Still, North Carolina Rep. Patrick McHenry's theatrically intense gaveling of the Tuesday vote was bracing all the same. McHenry will serve as interim speaker for the time being.

Now, as the country waits for a dysfunctional caucus to determine who among them will be appointed this thankless task, we need to take stock of this moment. Now that the dust has settled, a little, the GOP must take steps to ensure we don't suffer through this chaos again.

First, let's review. Shame on the Republican majority for failing in its most basic of duties—governing.

Or, in this case, for punishing McCarthy for daring to do just that when he struck deals with Democrats to protect the nation's credit and keep the government functioning, albeit briefly.

Note to the eight House Republicans who torpedoed McCarthy's young speakership: Democrats control the other congressional chamber and, oh yeah, the White House. You have to understand you're part of our crucial system of checks and balances, now under existential threat. Throwing a tantrum until you get your way doesn't count as a political strategy.

There was a time not that long ago when politics was viewed as the art of the possible. Strike your best deal and declare victory. That notion is beginning to seem alarmingly quaint.

So to the future: McCarthy has said he isn't running for reinstatement. Someone needs to oversee the chamber. The speaker is second in line to the presidency. This isn't a game.

There's no obvious successor, and the scramble to succeed McCarthy is sure to be a lurid spectacle. Whoever ends up with the job ought to take it only on the condition that they not be subject to the same restrictions that made McCarthy's early exit practically a foregone conclusion.

To win the favor of Gaetz and co., back in January, McCarthy ended up agreeing to House rules that allowed any single member to demand a vote on whether to remove him. Gaetz, a thorn in McCarthy's side all year long, took advantage, necessitating the vote. No matter that the vast majority of the GOP conference supported McCarthy and wanted no part of this.

To put that in context, in the previous Congress only a majority of members of the House could put Speaker Nancy Pelosi's job in jeopardy. Even the most skilled politicians would find running the notoriously rambunctious institution under the conditions to which McCarthy was subject (or subjected himself) nearly impossible.

See GOING on Page 9

McCarthy's ouster highlights deeper GOP dysfunction

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg Opinion

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering politics. A former professor of political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio, he wrote* A Plain Blog About Politics.

In an historic vote, U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy was ousted from his leadership position Tuesday by a small group of radical members of his own party, led by Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida.

The Republican conference has been plagued with dysfunction for a while now. Still, the vote was a stunning display of just how broken and dysfunctional the system has become. Other House speakers have been pushed out, and Republican Speaker John Boehner retired while facing a threat of being ousted. But this is the first time a sitting speaker has been removed by a vote. Gaetz exercised a little-known procedure that hadn't been used in more than 100 years to push a vote to "vacate" the speaker's chair. When it was over, eight Republicans and every Democrat had voted to remove McCarthy.

Under procedures established after 9/11 to ensure continuity of government, an acting speaker pro tempore was appointed from a list McCarthy had previously drawn up. Rep. Patrick McHenry of North Carolina, a McCarthy ally who spoke fiercely in his defense during Tuesday's debate, will serve in that job until a new speaker is elected. It's unclear when that vote might happen. At a closed door meeting Tuesday night, McCarthy told fellow Republicans that he will not run again. While the vote showed he had the support of the vast majority of the conference, it's difficult to see how he would have mounted a comeback. It took a tortuous 15 ballots for him to win the job back in January due to the same group of extreme Republicans who voted for his ouster, and the party might be ready to move on. (1)

The last time there was an attempt to remove a speaker was 1910, when Republicans tried to oust Speaker Joseph Cannon of Illinois. They were unsuccessful, but the intraparty fighting and divisions probably contributed to a Democratic takeover.

For all of the history and importance of Tuesday's events, it's also true that the speaker fight is in many ways a sideshow, an even more dysfunctional attempt by a handful of Republicans to use a quirk in House rules to defy the overwhelming bulk of their conference who were satisfied with McCarthy's leadership (or, are at least willing to vote to keep him as speaker). The real story isn't about Gaetz and McCarthy. It's about some 50 or more radical Republicans—"radical" because they simply don't believe in compromise and don't accept that it's needed to govern, even when their party holds only a slim majority in the House and must deal with a Democratic majority in the Senate and a Democrat in the White House.

And it's about the remainder of the House Republicans who haven't figured out a way to deal with the radicals within their own party. One of the concessions McCarthy made to these extremists to win the speakership also made it easier for them to call Tuesday's vote.

Observers have been calling House Republicans dysfunctional since before McCarthy was elected to Congress in 2006. And the dysfunction is getting worse, regardless of how the speaker fight plays out. For example, while only a handful of Republicans joined Gaetz in trying to bring McCarthy down, 21 Republicans refused to vote for his ill-fated measure to keep the government running last week—and 90 of them voted against McCarthy's last-minute successful attempt to avert a shutdown.

Perhaps symbolic of that is that while only eight Republicans ultimately voted against McCarthy, 11 voted against an earlier motion to kill Gaetz's maneuver without a final vote. Normally, one would expect members to stick with their party on procedural votes. But not these Republicans.

Last week Republicans managed to bring an agriculture spending bill to the House floor, but it failed badly. Even the spending bills that they've managed to pass are still dead on arrival in the Senate and no House Republicans have a plan for reaching a deal because so many of them are suspicious of just the idea of cutting deals.

We don't know who might replace McCarthy. Nor do we know how long this particular fight will last. What we do know is that the larger dysfunction in the House Republican conference will continue.

(1) I had expected that Democrats might have provided some help to save McCarthy. I underappreciated how angry they were with him for a series of things, including opposing the January 6 committee and reconciling with Donald Trump after that event; moving censures against two House Democrats; beginning impeachment proceedings against President Joe Biden despite lacking any evidence of wrongdoing; and pressuring House Democrats to vote for a measure to extend government funding this past weekend without giving them time to review the bill.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

CPA's 'business decisions' lack business sense, undermine national security

By CHRISTINA MARIE ELISE SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christina Marie Elise "Tina" Sablan, a former member of the CNMI House of Representatives, is the chief of staff of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

In recent weeks, the Commonwealth Ports Authority has raised airport fees by an astronomical 90% and hired D.C.-based law firm Kirstein & Young at $775/hour to petition the U.S. Department of Transportation to exempt the Marianas from restrictions imposed on flights from the People's Republic of China. According to the CPA board's then-chair, the exorbitant fee hikes and eye-popping legal engagement were common-sense "business decisions," necessary to "generate revenue" and keep CPA afloat.

The CPA board's agenda has thus far been driven by appointees of the notoriously PRC-friendly former governor Ralph Torres. The terms of two of his appointees, including the chair, at last expired a few days ago. But we must still deal with the consequences of the "business decisions" they made that were neither sensible nor responsible, and ignored critical economic and geopolitical realities.

CPA's unreasonable airport fee hikes amount to extortion, squeezing the Commonwealth's remaining airlines and discouraging new prospects. CPA's costly engagement with Kirstein & Young is funded by airport revenues that could be better spent improving airport facilities, retaining existing airlines, or reducing the burden of austerity on CPA's public servants. And CPA's use of government resources to pursue flights from the PRC dampens potential growth in other markets, contradicts Commonwealth policy, and undermines national security.

At the beginning of his term, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios announced the Commonwealth's pivot away from its long-standing overreliance on Chinese investment, to focus on strengthening relationships and pursuing new opportunities with federal partners and allies in the region. The administration's position was a response to heightened national security concerns, the instability of Chinese markets, and geopolitical tensions associated with activities of the Chinese Communist Party in the Marianas and the wider Pacific.

CPA's "business decisions" fly in the face of both Commonwealth policy and national security. Whether they realize it or not, the CPA board has taken actions that impair the Commonwealth's economic recovery and play right into the hands of the CCP. Board leaders have essentially gone rogue—courting Chinese investment, undermining the positions of the Commonwealth and the United States, driving away remaining airlines, discouraging the development of new markets, and racking up outrageous legal fees in the process.

Fortunately, new leadership is about to take over CPA; the Senate is poised to confirm three of Governor Palacios' board nominees in the coming days. CPA's new leadership will have much work to do in cleaning up the mess left behind by their predecessors. Their mandate must include realigning CPA with Commonwealth and national policy, and resetting relationships with local and federal partners as well as the general public.

The new board leaders will be off to a promising start if they move swiftly to roll back the excessive airport fee hikes, terminate the contract with Kirstein & Young, and withdraw the ill-conceived China petition.

Amata condemns attacks in Israel

Editor's Note: Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen released the following statement condemning the attacks against Israel:

By UIFA'ATALI AMATA RADEWAGEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen is the delegate of Amerian Samoa in the U.S. Congress and is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

I've had the great joy to visit Israel and to see Jerusalem, an important and historic site to people of faith all over the world.

The people of Israel are enduring sudden brutal attacks, loss of life, and destruction. We must stand together in fully condemning this lawless violence, and insisting internationally that Hamas stops this attack without delay. The people of Israel should not have to face the threat of rockets, explosions and indiscriminate killing.

The State of Israel is a dependable friend to the United States, and an allied democracy in an important region of the world. I've met with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and been briefed on Israel's security, and there is great respect for the capabilities of the Israel Defense Forces.

Our prayers and thoughts, as well as our nation's diplomatic efforts and strong support, are with the people of Israel in this time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A response from Saipan Mayor's Office HR director

In recent days, there have been allegations and discussions regarding my role as the HR director for the Saipan Mayor's Office in connection with accusations of alleged sexual harassment. I believe it is imperative to address these allegations openly and transparently to set the record straight.

On the morning of Sept. 14, Ms. Arriola approached me with verbal accusations of "sexual harassment" directed toward the mayor and some other individuals. Ms. Arriola herself acknowledged that some of these interactions were, in her own words, mere jokes and that she did not take them seriously. It is worth noting that she also admitted to engaging in similar banter. Nevertheless, I treated her complaint with the utmost seriousness in line with our commitment to ensuring a safe and harassment-free workplace.

Upon Ms. Arriola's request, I promptly took the following actions:

■ I spoke to the Mayor immediately after she had left the office, as she had requested. This demonstrates my commitment to addressing the issue promptly.

■ I posted the "Non-Tolerance of Sexual Harassment" Policy & Procedure#1026-105 on our bulletin boards and conducted discussions with all staff to underscore the gravity of this policy. In addition to this, I included information from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on "What is employment discrimination?" and the NMIAC Subpart C-Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy. These materials have been posted, and employees have been duly informed.

■ Without delay, I scheduled a meeting for the very next day, Sept. 15, 2023, between Ms. Arriola, myself, the chief of staff, and the mayor to address the matter promptly.

This meeting took place less than 24 hours from the time Ms. Arriola came to my office with her verbal complaint. The meeting occurred on Sept. 15, 2023, at 9:30am. At the end of this meeting, Ms. Arriola expressed her appreciation for my responsiveness. She even expressed that she was happy and content that this problem is over and resolved. She further stated that we will not discuss this matter anymore. In fact, at the end of the meeting she even extended her hand and shook hands with the mayor, signifying their mutual agreement that this matter had been resolved and signaling the intent to move forward and work collaboratively together. We all agreed that this matter will no longer be discussed after this meeting.

As further assurance, I even inquired about her well-being just before we left the meeting. She explicitly stated, "Let's put this matter to rest. I'm satisfied with my discussion with the mayor, so let's join hands and work together." With these statements and gestures, I genuinely believed that the matter had been resolved.

Two weeks later, Ms. Arriola submitted her written complaint but without a mention whatsoever that we all had a meeting and that this matter had already been resolved. I was completely stunned by this and left with so many unanswered questions in my mind

Furthermore, I initiated a thorough investigation by interviewing all employees, both male and female, to ascertain if they felt threatened, retaliated against, sexually harassed, or intimidated while working at the Saipan Mayor's Office. The feedback I received was clear: our staff do not share Ms. Arriola's sentiments, with some even suggesting that her claims appear unfounded.

In addition to these efforts, I have reached out to other agencies to explore training programs that can assist our employees in managing stress, mental health, and adult mental health first aid, among other topics. While the dates for these programs are pending confirmation, we are actively working to ensure the participation of interested employees.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that the HR Division within the Saipan Mayor's Office takes all policies, including the Sexual Harassment Policy, extremely seriously. Our commitment to maintaining a safe, respectful, and inclusive workplace for all remains unwavering.

It is essential to clarify these details to ensure a fair and informed perspective on the situation. We are dedicated to addressing any concerns and upholding the highest standards of professionalism within our organization.

Sincerely,

Juanette Sablan
HR director, Office of the Municipality of Saipan

GOING

From page 8

What just happened is bad for democracy whatever side of the political spectrum you're on.

Democrats may enjoy watching Republicans flailing. But no one's interests are served by chaos and dysfunction on this level.

The first order of business for the adults in the GOP conference is to make clear to the upstarts that there will be no replay. November will be here before you know it, and we'll be back to tedious shutdown politics. The next speaker, hopefully enjoying something of a honeymoon with fellow Republicans, needs to make clear that keeping the government open will be a negotiation, not a decree. The speaker-to-be-named-later will drive the best bargain possible—but it will have to be a bargain.

The process isn't beginning promisingly, unfortunately. McHenry in his interim role decided the first order of business was to punish Pelosi and other House Democratic leaders by taking away their "hideaway" offices in the Capitol building—traditionally a perk both sides have yielded the other no matter which party was in power.

McHenry's reasoning appeared to be that the Democrats allowed McCarthy's speakership to sink when they could have saved him—in the name of the institution, of course. But McCarthy offered Democrats nothing in return. They were under no obligation to save the GOP from itself. Punishing them in this case won't further the cause of eventual cooperation.

Hopefully, cooler heads will prevail once the sting of McCarthy's removal eases. We're not holding our breath.

But we are holding out hope, maybe against our better judgment, that this sad episode will further a move toward detente between the parties in the House.

Matt Gaetz should be a sideshow spectacle, not a power broker.

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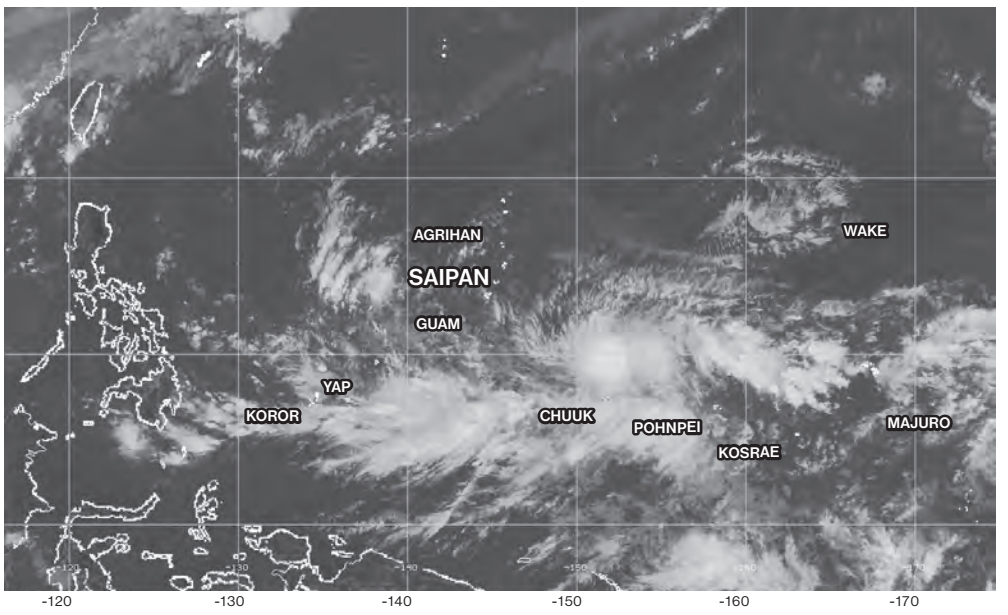
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers. Partly sunny	Frequent showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 9am, then scattered showers and thunderstorms after 9am. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy	Scattered showers and thunderstorms before 11am, then a chance of showers between 11am and noon. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
87º 79º	86º 79º	86º 79º	86º 79º	86º 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 10:19 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trades prevail in the Marianas. Satellite imagery and Doppler radar indicate some passing showers in Guam coastal waters. Ipan buoy indicates seas are about 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	89° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	89° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	5:59 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:30 AM	2:44 PM	-
Tuesday	2:20 AM	3:23 PM	-
Wednesday	3:09 AM	3:59 PM	-
Thursday	3:56 AM	4:32 PM	-
Friday	4:42 AM	5:06 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	72° / 43°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 79°
Honolulu	Windy	86° / 75°
London	Showers	59° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
New York	Showers	73° / 58°
Osaka	Showers	79° / 64°
Paris	Showers	63° / 52°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 59°
Rome	Sunny	73° / 57°
Salem	Thunderstorm	86° / 60°
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 55°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°
Tokyo	Showers	75° / 66°
Washington, DC	Showers	73° / 57°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
2:36 AM	High Tide	1.32
10:05 AM	Low Tide	0.20
5:34 PM	High Tide	1.68
11:27 PM	Low Tide	1.02

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Night Scent Restaurant introduces lunch buffet

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Night Scent Restaurant is celebrating its return to dine-in service by introducing an everyday lunch buffet.

Owner Lin Ming said their signature fried chicken headlines the restaurant's 15-dish buffet that include two types of soups, iced tea and juice drinks, and dessert.

Aside from their ala-Jollibee fried chicken, Night Scent Restaurant's buffet spread also usually includes tried-and-tested Chinese cuisine staples like char siu (Chinese barbecue pork), braised pork with egg, sweet and sour pork, flavored shrimp, beef broccoli, spring rolls (lumpia), Peking duck, salt and pepper shrimp, chow mien (fried noodles), spicy sauteed vegetables, fried dumplings, and fried rice. For dessert, they have seasonal fruits, Chinese pumpkin pie, and sesame balls (buchi).

"We started a lunch buffet everyday because local people need lunch at noon and we're inviting them all to come and eat," said Ming.

As to why they're pulling out all the stops with a 15-dish buffet spread, she simply said the more the merrier.

"We have more food to let everyone have more choices, so as to attract more guests with our lunch buffet. We just want everyone to enjoy a nice meal with us," she said.

As well as the buffier buffet selection, Night Scent Restaurant's eat-all-you-can offering also extends an hour later than usual smorgasbords on island as it's until 3pm.

"We've extended to 3pm because we understand some people have their lunch break at 2pm," said Ming.

They also offer a bento box—three choices with rice and one soup—for just $7, also from 11am to 3pm.

Night Scent Restaurant essentially was open only for take-out since the CNMI recorded its first COVID-19 cases in 2020.

Ming said they continued to be a take-out only operation even after the pandemic abated as tourists haven't returned in substantial numbers.

"It's because there are no tourists. There are very few people dining and the long business hours will increase our expenses. Now we feel comfortable to open for dine-in and hopefully our local residents—not only our local Chinese residents—will patronize us," she said.

Night Scent Restaurant is located along Coral Tree Avenue across Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. It's open everyday from 11am to 10pm. Ample parking is available at the back of the restaurant. For more information or for reservations, call (670) 989-1288.

MARK RABAGO

Night Scent Restaurant's buffet offering is more than a typical eat-all-you-can as it has up to 15 dishes.

MARK RABAGO

Night Scent Restaurant is located along Coral Tree Avenue across Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

MARK RABAGO

Night Scent Restaurant's 15-dish buffet is headlined by their ala-Jollibee fried chicken and includes two types of soups, iced tea and juice drinks, and dessert.

China's flagging economy gets temporary boost as holiday travel returns to pre-pandemic levels

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese tourists jammed popular sites as travel bounced back to pre-pandemic levels during a recent eight-day national holiday, giving a temporary boost to China's flagging economy.

The government said that tourism revenues reached about 753 billion yuan ($103 billion) during the combined Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holiday period that ended Friday, a rise of 1.5% over 2019 and 130% compared to last year when pandemic restrictions were still in place.

China maintained lockdowns and other restrictions much longer than most other countries, enforcing a "zero-COVID" policy until last December. But a hoped-for consumer spending boom after the lifting of restrictions hasn't materialized, as many Chinese remain cautious with an unfolding real estate crisis weighing on the economy and youth unemployment topping 20%.

That didn't stop tourists from flocking to the Great Wall and the teeming pedestrian-only shopping streets in Shanghai, Beijing and other cities. Few wore protective masks in shoulder-to-shoulder crowds in night markets and other popular destinations.

Planes and high-speed trains were heavily booked over the holiday. The tourism ministry said that 826 million domestic trips were made, up 4.1% from 2019 and 71.3% from last year.

Domestic tourism benefited somewhat from a slower recovery in international travel as people chose to travel at home. The number of flights to and from China remains below pre-pandemic levels, and reports of overseas crime and scams—including a recent mall shooting in Thailand—may be deterring some from venturing outside the country.

China's border authorities processed 11.8 million entries and exits during the recent holiday, a nearly three-fold increase over last year when people entering China still faced mandatory quarantine, but only 85% of the total in 2019, the National Immigration Administration said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

The auto workers' strike enters its fourth week

CHICAGO (AP)—The president of the United Auto Workers and other labor leaders headlined a rally Saturday in Chicago to maintain union members' support for a strike against Detroit automakers that is now in its fourth week. UAW President Shawn Fain, using language that has become familiar over the past month, portrayed the strike a pivotal moment for organized labor and part of a war pitting working people against "the billionaire class and corporate greed." Fain provided no new details on negotiations or whether talks continued on Saturday. A spokesman for General Motors said talks were continuing but without news to report. A spokeswoman for Stellantis, which owns the Jeep, Ram and Dodge brands, said there was nothing to update Saturday. Ford did not immediately reply to a request for comment. The union claimed a breakthrough on Friday, when GM agreed to put workers at new electric vehicle battery plants under the UAW's national contract. On Friday night, Ford repeated its previous statement that the plants haven't even been built, and when they are, workers will decide whether to join the union. The strike began Sept. 15 at three assembly plants, one operated by each company, and has since expanded to GM and Stellantis parts centers and another Ford plant and another GM one. The UAW did not announce new targets on Friday, citing progress in talks. The UAW is seeking pay raises of 36% over four years and other benefits. The union says Ford has offered wage hikes of 23% over four years, with GM and Stellantis at about 20%.

Bankman-Fried stole customer funds from the beginning of FTX, exchange's co-founder tells jury

NEW YORK (AP)—Sam Bankman-Fried authorized the illegal use of FTX customers' funds and assets to plug financial gaps at an affiliated hedge fund from the exchange's earliest days, FTX's co-founder Gary Wang told a New York jury on Friday, as prosecutors pressed their case that Bankman-Fried was the mastermind behind one of the biggest frauds in U.S. history. Eventually, the losses at the hedge fund, Alameda Research, became so large that there was no way to hide them any longer, Wang said in his second day of testimony. "FTX was not fine," Wang said, referring to the now-infamous tweet that Bankman-Fried wrote only a few days before the exchange filed for bankruptcy in November 2022. Prosecutors allege that Bankman-Fried, 31, stole billions of dollars from investors and customers in order to fund a lavish lifestyle in The Bahamas and buy the influence of politicians, celebrities and the public. Wang was FTX's chief technology officer and is part of what has been referred to as the "inner circle" of FTX executives who have agreed to testify against Bankman-Fried in exchange for leniency in their own criminal cases. He is expected to finish his testimony Tuesday. Wang has pleaded guilty to wire fraud, securities and commodities fraud as part of his agreement with prosecutors. Prosecutors hope to have Caroline Ellison, the former CEO of Alameda and Bankman-Fried's ex-girlfriend, take the stand Tuesday. Wang and Bankman-Fried started Alameda in 2017, then founded FTX in 2019. Wang told the jury that, at the direction of Bankman-Fried, he inserted code into FTX's operations that would give Alameda Research the ability to make nearly unlimited withdrawals from FTX and have a line of credit up to $65 billion. Alameda was given these privileges initially because the hedge fund was the primary market maker for FTX's customers in the exchange's early days. Alameda took advantage of its unlimited withdrawal capabilities and lines of credit from the start, Wang said, in the forms of cryptocurrencies as well as dollars. Initially it was only a few million dollars but grew over the years.

Nation

Trump endorses Jordan to succeed McCarthy as House speaker

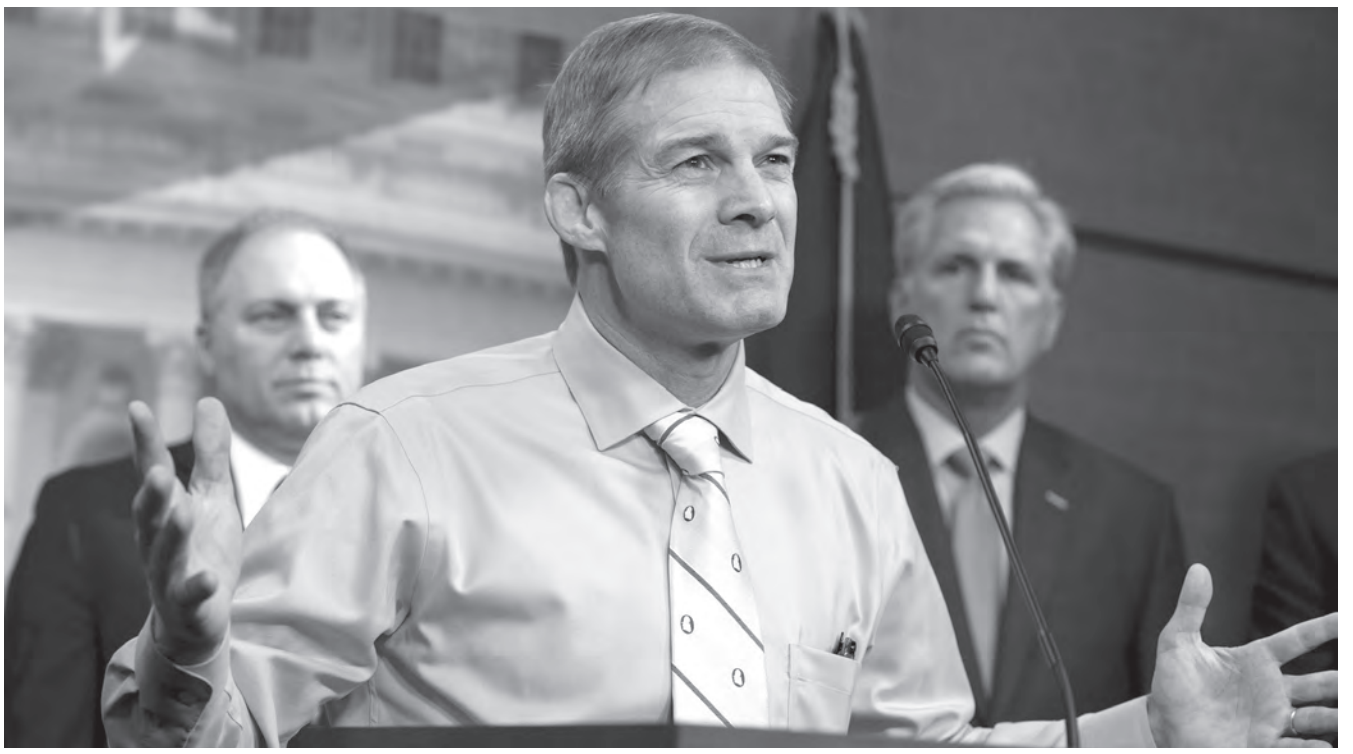
WASHINGTON (AP)—Former President Donald Trump is backing Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the pugnacious House Judiciary Committee chairman and longtime Trump defender, to succeed Kevin McCarthy as House speaker.

"Congressman Jim Jordan has been a STAR long before making his very successful journey to Washington, D.C., representing Ohio's 4th Congressional District," Trump wrote on his Truth Social site early Friday. "He will be a GREAT Speaker of the House, & has my Complete & Total Endorsement!"

The announcement came hours after Texas Rep. Troy Nehls said Thursday night that Trump had decided to back Jordan's bid and after Trump said he would be open to serving as interim leader himself if Republicans couldn't settle on a successor following McCarthy's stunning ouster.

Trump, the current GOP presidential front-runner, has used the leadership vacuum on the Hill to further demonstrate his control over the Republican Party. House Republicans are deeply fractured and some have been asking him to lead them — a seemingly fanciful suggestion that he also promoted after inflaming the divisions that forced out McCarthy as speaker.

Trump had been telling people in recent days that he preferred Jordan for the post, according to two Republicans familiar with his thinking and granted anonymity to discuss it. But it was unclear whether he intended to announce it before Nehls' tweet.



AP

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, center, is flanked by Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., left, and House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy, D-Calif., as they criticize Democrats for launching a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019.

"Just had a great conversation with President Trump about the Speaker's race. He is endorsing Jim Jordan, and I believe Congress should listen to the leader of our party," Nehls wrote late Thursday on X, formerly known as Twitter.

In an interview later with The Associated Press, Nehls, who had been encouraging Trump to run for the post himself, said the ex-president instead wanted Jordan.

"After him thinking about it and this and that ... he said he really is in favor of getting behind Jim Jordan," Nehls said. "He believes Jim Jordan is right for the job."

Jordan is one of two leading candidates maneuvering for speaker along with Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana. Both are trying to lock in the 218 votes required to win the job and need the support of both the far-right and moderate factions of the party. It's unclear whether Trump's endorsement will force Scalise, the current GOP majority leader, out of the race, or if either can reach the threshold.

Indeed, Nehls said that if no current candidate succeeds in earning the support needed to win, he would once again turn to Trump. "Our conference is divided. Our country is broken. I don't know who can get to 218," he said in the interview.

Trump earlier in the day had been in talks to visit Capitol Hill next week ahead of a speakership vote that could happen as soon as Wednesday, according to three people familiar with the discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of an official announcement. Trump confirmed the trip to Fox News Digital and said he would travel Tuesday to meet with Republicans.

The trip would have been Trump's first to the Capitol since leaving office and since his supporters attacked the building in a bid to halt the peaceful transition of power on Jan. 6, 2021. Trump has been indicted in both Washington and Georgia over his efforts to overturn the results of the election, which he lost to President Joe Biden.

Nehls, however, said it was unlikely Trump would make the trip following the endorsement.

Jordan is one of Trump's biggest champions on the Hill and has been leading the investigations into prosecutors who have charged the former president. He was also part of a group of Republicans who worked with Trump to overturn his defeat ahead of Jan. 6.

Scalise has also worked closely with Trump over the years.

One of the people familiar with the planning had cautioned earlier Thursday that, if Trump did go ahead with the visit, he would be there to talk with Republican lawmakers and not to pitch himself for the role.

Biden faces more criticism about the US-Mexico border

MIAMI (AP)—The ad sounds like something out of the GOP 2024 playbook, trumpeting a senator's work with Republicans to crack down on the flow of fentanyl and other illegal drugs into the U.S., getting tough on Chinese interests helping smugglers, and noting how he "wrote a bill signed by Donald Trump to increase funding for Border Patrol."

It's actually a commercial for Sen. Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat facing a tough reelection fight that will help decide control of the Senate.

"Ohioans trust Sherrod Brown to keep us safe," says the narrator of the ad, sponsored by the Democrat-aligned Duty and Country PAC. His campaign declined to comment.

The message is one more indication of the political and security challenges the U.S.-Mexico border has presented for President Joe Biden. Some Democrats across the country are distancing themselves from the White House, and polls indicate widespread frustration with Biden's handling of immigration and the border, creating a major liability for the president's re-election next year.

The Biden administration this week took two actions seen by many as moving to the right on immigration.

The Department of Homeland Security waived environmental and other reviews to construct new portions of a border wall in South Texas after Biden pledged during the 2020 campaign that he would build "not another foot" of wall. And U.S. officials said they would resume deportations to Venezuela not long after the administration increased protected status for thousands of people from the country.

Both moves inflamed conservatives and liberals alike. Many Republicans accused Biden of being too late to adopt former President Donald Trump's ideas on a border wall, while liberals who oppose additional border restrictions accused the White House of betraying campaign pledges.

"My frustration has been that we are not addressing immigration in a holistic way as a country. We are depending on the president alone," said Rep. Veronica Escobar of Texas, a Democrat who represents the border city of El Paso and is a national co-chair of the Biden re-election campaign. "We are treating people from different nationalities in a different way. And the pathways that have been created are being challenged in court consistently."

Biden has said his administration moved forward with the border wall because it was required by Congress during the Trump administration, even though he considers it ineffective. His reelection campaign pointed to Trump's record at the border, including his administration's practice of separating immigrant families as a deterrence measure and the temporary detention of children in warehouses in chain-link cells.

Tourism resuming in West Maui near Lahaina

HONOLULU (AP)—The area around the Maui town largely destroyed by wildfire two months ago was scheduled to welcome back travelers on Sunday as the mayor and Hawaii's governor pushed ahead to restart tourism to boost the economy despite opposition from some Lahaina residents.

Five hotels in West Maui were accepting reservations again, according to their websites and the Maui Hotel and Lodging Association. In addition, eight timeshare properties—in which visitors have an ownership stake in their room—were opening across the region early this month, including some a few miles from the devastation.

The reopening fell on the two-month anniversary of the wildfire that killed at least 98 people and destroyed more than 2,000 structures, many of them homes and apartments.

Many local residents have objected to resuming tourism in West Maui, which includes Lahaina town and a stretch of coastline to the north. Opponents said they don't want travelers asking them about their traumatic experiences while they are grieving the loss of their loved ones and processing the destruction of their homes.

More than 3,500 Lahaina-area residents signed a petition asking Hawaii Gov. Josh Green to delay the restart. Green said doing so would help Maui's tourism-driven economy get on a path to recovery.

It's not clear how many travelers were staying at hotels and timeshares. Laura Paulson, executive director of the Maui Hotel and Lodging Association, said her organization's surveys indicated the number will be "low." She predicted "a very slow ramp up to visitors coming back."

Maui County on Saturday released a video message from Mayor Richard Bissen acknowledging the difficulties of the situation.

"I know we are still grieving and it feels too soon. But the reality is there are those in our community who are ready to get back to work. Bills need to be paid, keiki have needs and our kupuna face continued medical care," Bissen said, using the Hawaiian words for children and elders.

Thousands of tourists staying in beachfront hotels north of the burn zone left Maui in the days after the fire. Some 11,000 hotel rooms in West Maui have since either sat empty or housed displaced Lahaina residents under a program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Red Cross.

Bissen said he was working hard to make sure no one affected by the fire has to leave their temporary housing to make room for visitors.

The county prepared another video highlighting places visitors could go outside West Maui, including the town of Paia on Maui's north shore and the scenic road to Hana on the island's east side.

The video message urged visitors to show respect by staying away from the burn zone, not taking and posting "inappropriate images" on social media, and following signs and instructions.

Separately, the governor's Office of Wellness and Resilience prepared a flyer with tips on how visitors can be respectful, which it planned to distribute at hotels, rental car desks and other places visitors frequent.

Four of the five reopening hotels were in the northernmost section of West Maui, including the Ritz-Carlton at Kapalua. This area is 7 to 10 miles (11 to 16 kilometers) and a 15- to 20-minute drive north of the part of Lahaina that burned.

Asia

PH protests after Chinese coast guard vessel nearly collides with patrol ship

ABOARD BRP SINDANGAN (AP)—A Chinese coast guard ship came within a meter (3 feet) of colliding with a Philippine patrol ship it was trying to block in the South China Sea, in an alarming incident that intensified fears that territorial disputes in the waters could spark a larger crisis.

The Philippines on Friday strongly condemned the Chinese ship's maneuvers near Second Thomas Shoal, which the Asian neighbors both claim and has been the scene of frequent confrontations.

One other Philippine coast guard vessel was blocked and surrounded by Chinese coast guard and militia ships in the incident, which dragged on for about eight hours on Wednesday. A major clash in the disputed waters could potentially involve the United States, which has vowed to defend the Philippines, its treaty ally, if Filipino forces, ships and aircraft come under armed attack.

Two smaller supply boats being escorted by the Philippine coast guard in the contested waters managed to breach the Chinese blockade and delivered food and other supplies to a Filipino marine outpost at the shoal.

"We condemn the behavior of the Chinese coast guard vessel. They have been violating international law, particularly the collision regulations," Philippine coast guard spokesperson Commodore Jay Tarriela said at a briefing Friday.

A collision was averted when one of the two Philippine coast guard vessels, the BRP Sindangan, rapidly reversed its engine to avoid slamming into the Chinese coast guard ship that crossed its bow at a distance of only a meter, Tarriela said.

It's "the closest dangerous maneuver" by any Chinese coast guard ship against a Philippine patrol ship, he said.

The incident was witnessed by several journalists, including from The Associated Press, who were invited by the Philippine coast guard to join the voyage as part of a strategy aimed at exposing Chinese aggressive actions in the South China Sea.

A small contingent of Filipino marines and navy personnel has stood guard for years on a long-marooned but still commissioned warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, at the shoal. China has surrounded it with its coast guard ships and militia vessels to prevent the Philippines from delivering construction materials that Beijing fears could be used to reinforce the Sierra Madre and turn it into a permanent territorial outpost.

Wednesday's hostilities began at dawn when a Chinese coast guard ship closely tailed the Philippine vessels enroute to Second Thomas Shoal. A swarm of Chinese coast guard and militia ships, including at least one navy warship, later emerged and formed a blockade in the high seas off the shoal.

A Chinese coast guard radio operator asserted repeatedly to the BRP Sindangan that "China has indisputable sovereignty" over Second Thomas Shoal and outlying waters. "To avoid miscalculations, leave and keep out," the Chinese radio operator warned.

Filipino coast guard personnel responded by asserting Philippine rights to the area and said they would proceed with the delivery of the supplies.

The Chinese coast guard said in a statement Wednesday night that the Philippine vessels entered the waters "without permission from the Chinese government" and that "China firmly opposes the Philippines illegally transporting building materials to the 'grounded' military boat." It said it gave a stern warning to the Philippine vessels and monitored them throughout the process.

It was the latest flare-up in long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest trade routes. The conflicts, which involve China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei, are regarded as a potential flashpoint and have become a delicate fault line in U.S.-China rivalry in the region.

In early August, a Chinese coast guard ship used a water cannon against one of two Philippine supply boats to prevent it from approaching Second Thomas Shoal. The move, which was caught on video, outraged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and prompted the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila to summon the Chinese ambassador to convey a strongly worded protest.

Death toll from strong earthquakes that shook Afghanistan rises to 2,000

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A powerful magnitude-6.3 earthquake followed by strong aftershocks killed dozens of people in western Afghanistan on Saturday, the country's national disaster authority said.

The United Nations gave a preliminary figure of 320 dead, but later said the figure was still being verified. Local authorities gave an estimate of 100 people killed and 500 injured, according to the same update from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The update also said 465 houses had been reported destroyed and a further 135 were damaged.

"Partners and local authorities anticipate the number of casualties to increase as search and rescue efforts continue amid reports that some people may be trapped under collapsed buildings," the U.N. said.

Disaster authority spokesperson Mohammad Abdullah Jan said four villages in the Zenda Jan district in Herat province bore the brunt of the quake and aftershocks.

The United States Geological Survey said the quake's epicenter was about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Herat city. It was followed by three very strong aftershocks, measuring magnitude 6.3, 5.9 and 5.5, as well as lesser shocks.

At least five strong tremors struck the city around noon, Herat city resident Abdul Shakor Samadi said.

"All people are out of their homes," Samadi said. "Houses, offices and shops are all empty and there are fears of more earthquakes. My family and I were inside our home, I felt the quake." His family began shouting and ran outside, afraid to return indoors.

The World Health Organization in Afghanistan said it dispatched 12 ambulance cars to Zenda Jan to evacuate casualties to hospitals.

"As deaths & casualties from the earthquake continue to be reported, teams are in hospitals assisting treatment of wounded & assessing additional needs," the U.N. agency said on X, formerly known as Twitter. "WHO-supported ambulances are transporting those affected, most of them women and children."

Telephone connections went down in Herat, making it hard to get details from affected areas. Videos on social media showed hundreds of people in the streets outside their homes and offices in Herat city.

Herat province borders Iran. The quake also was felt in the nearby Afghan provinces of Farah and Badghis, according to local media reports.

World

Israeli soldiers battle Hamas on 2nd day of surprise attack

AP

Fire and smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike, in Gaza City, Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli soldiers fought to repel Hamas militants Sunday, a day after they broke out of the blockaded Gaza Strip and rampaged through nearby Israeli communities in an unprecedented surprise attack, while Israel's retaliation strikes leveled buildings in Gaza and its prime minister said the country was at war.

In an assault of startling breadth, Hamas gunmen rolled into as many as 22 locations outside the Gaza Strip, including towns and other communities as far as 15 miles (24 kilometers) from the Gaza border, while Hamas launched thousands of rockets at Israeli cities. They killed at least 250 people, including 26 soldiers, and took hostages as Israel's military scrambled to muster a response.

On Sunday, the Israeli military said it forces were fighting Hamas incursions in eight places. An Israeli military spokesperson said that two hostage situations had been "resolved," but did not say whether all the hostages had been rescued alive.

Israel struck 426 targets in Gaza, its miltary said, flattening residential buildings in giant explosions. That included a 14-story tower that held dozens of apartments as well as Hamas offices in central Gaza City. Israeli forces fired a warning just before.

At least 256 people in the Gaza Strip were killed in Israeli strikes, including 20 children, and close to 1,800 wounded, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Israeli media, citing rescue service officials, said at least 250 people were killed and 1,500 wounded in Saturday's attack, making it the deadliest in Israel in decades. Hamas fighters took an unknown number of civilians and soldiers captive into Gaza.

The conflict threatened to escalate with Israel's vows of retaliation, and fears of attacks from Hezbollah, a militant group allied with Hamas in Lebanon, on Israel's northern border.

The Israeli military said that it was striking an area in Lebanon from which strikes on Israeli towns had come, but did not say who had launched the strikes. In previous Israel-Hamas conflicts, Hezbollah has sat on the sidelines while smaller Palestinian groups have launched rockets from Lebanon.

In a televised address Saturday night, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the military will use all of its strength to destroy Hamas' capabilities. "All the places that Hamas hides in, operates from, we will turn them into ruins," he added.

Days after deadly missile strike on cafe, grief and search for answers

HROZA, Ukraine (AP)—U.N. and local investigators searched for answers on Saturday at the site of a Russian missile strike on a small Ukrainian village that days earlier turned its sole cafe to rubble and killed nearly 52 people gathered for a dead soldier's wake, according to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other top officials in Kyiv. Local residents that same day began laying their lost friends to rest.

Representatives from the United Nations Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) spent much of the day speaking with local residents and survivors in Hroza, in the northeastern Kharkiv region, according to a statement shared with the Associated Press.

"My initial conversations with local residents and survivors indicate that virtually all those killed were civilians and that the target itself, a busy village cafe and store, was also clearly civilian," Danielle Bell, who led the team that visited Hroza on Saturday, was cited as saying in the U.N. statement.

"What happened here is yet another tragic reminder of the deadly impact Russia's invasion has had on Ukraine's civilians," Bell added.

The village cafe was obliterated and whole families perished after the missile strike on Thursday cut short a wake for Andriy Kozyr, a soldier from Hroza who died last winter fighting Russia's invading forces in eastern Ukraine.

According to Ukrainian news reports, he was initially laid to rest elsewhere in Ukraine, as his native village remained under Russian occupation. Kozyr's family decided to rebury him in Hroza more than 15 months following his death, after DNA tests confirmed his identity, and the cafe reopened especially to let residents honor his memory.

His son Dmytro Kozyr, also a soldier, was among those who died in the attack alongside his wife Nina, who was just days short of her 21st birthday. As of Saturday, Ukrainian law enforcement and the regional prosecutor's office put the number of victims at 52.

Health & Wellness

Strategies to stay healthy during respiratory virus season

By DEEDEE STIEPAN
Mayo Clinic News Network

Fall and winter are a time when highly contagious viruses that cause respiratory illness usually circulate heavily in communities. Because many of these viruses can lead to serious infection, hospitalization and even death, it's crucial to arm yourself with strategies that can help prevent illness and keep you and your loved ones safe.

In this Mayo Clinic Minute, Dr. Priya Sampathkumar, an infectious diseases expert, outlines some strategies you can use to keep you and your family healthy during respiratory virus season.

"Each year we have what we call viral respiratory season where people seem to get colds, and some people get worse infections, including pneumonia," says Dr. Sampathkumar.

The viruses responsible for causing most infections in the fall and winter are influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

One of the best strategies to provide protection against these viruses is vaccination. Annual flu shots are recommended for everyone 6 months and older.

"The flu vaccine, as you know, has been around for many, many years and is a very safe vaccine," says Dr. Sampathkumar. "It does do a good job in preventing the most serious complications of flu, which are hospitalization and death."

GO NAKAMURA/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

A health care worker receives the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Updated COVID-19 vaccines are also recommended this year, along with a newly approved RSV vaccine for adults ages 60 and older with risk factors for RSV such as weakened immune systems, frailty or chronic heart or lung disease.

Dr. Sampathkumar says along with getting recommended vaccinations, avoiding crowded areas, considering masking to protect yourself in crowded indoor spaces, and frequent hand-washing, are other ways to help get you through respiratory virus season.

"Then, if you do become sick, make sure that at that point, you do wear a mask to protect those around you. Staying home and not exposing a lot of people at your workplace or elsewhere."

Q&A: Foods to help maximize your memory

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I enjoy cooking, but I prefer to work with the freshest ingredients. As such, I grow my own fruits and vegetables in a small garden and purchase other fresh produce from a local farmers market. I've read that certain foods may help with memory function. Are there foods I can eat to help boost my cognitive health?

ANSWER: Research suggests that the ability to maximize memory function may be related to what you eat. Following an eating plan that provides a healthier selection of dietary fats and a variety of plant foods rich in phytonutrients could positively affect your health. Phytonutrients are substances found in certain plants that are believed to be beneficial for human health and help prevent certain diseases.

There's still much to learn about what makes up a brain-healthy diet. Studies are finding that what is good for your heart also may be good for your brain. So the best bet for rich memories is to forgo unhealthy fat and remember to diversify your plant-based food portfolio.

DREAMSTIME

Grapes are full of resveratrol, a memory-boosting compound. Concord grapes are rich in polyphenols, which have the potential to promote brain function.

Foods that boost memory

Diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and legumes, fish, healthier fats, and herbs or seeds boost the brain's memory functioning. Here's more about these powerhouse foods:

Fruits

■ Berries are high in antioxidants that can protect the brain from oxidative damage and prevent premature aging and memory-impairing dementia. Blueberries are a rich source of anthocyanin and other flavonoids that may improve brain function.

■ Grapes are full of resveratrol, a memory-boosting compound. Concord grapes are rich in polyphenols, which have the potential to promote brain function.

■ Watermelon has a high concentration of lycopene, another powerful antioxidant. Watermelon also is a good source of pure water, which benefits brain health. Even a mild case of dehydration can reduce mental energy and impair memory.

■ Avocados are a fruit rich in monounsaturated fat, which improves memory function by helping improve blood cholesterol levels when eaten in moderation in place of saturated fats.

Vegetables

■ Beets are rich in nitrates, a natural compound that can dilate blood vessels, allowing more oxygenated blood to reach the brain.

■ Dark, leafy greens are known for their antioxidants, such as vitamin C, and have been shown to reduce age-related memory loss. Greens also are rich in folate, which can improve memory by decreasing inflammation and improving blood circulation to the brain.

Whole grains and legumes

■ Cracked wheat, wholegrain couscous, chickpeas, oats, sweet potatoes and black beans are examples of complex carbohydrates. Since brain cells run on glucose derived from carbohydrates and don't store excess glucose, they need a steady supply of it. Complex carbohydrates are a preferred brain food, providing a slow, sustained supply of glucose. They take longer to metabolize and are high in folate, the memory-boosting B vitamin.

Seafood

■ Fatty fishes, such as salmon, trout, mackerel, herring, sardines, pilchards and kippers, are rich in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids. These have been shown to improve memory when eaten one to two times per week. Omega-3 fatty acids don't affect low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol and can lower triglycerides.

■ Shellfish and crustaceans, such as oysters, mussels, clams, crayfish, shrimp and lobster, are good sources of vitamin B12, a nutrient involved in preventing memory loss.

Healthier fats

■ Olive oil provides monounsaturated fat, which can help reduce LDL cholesterol levels when used in place of saturated or trans fat. Extra-virgin olive oil is the least processed type with the highest protective antioxidant compound levels.

■ Nuts, such as walnuts, are a source of omega-3 fatty acids, which lower triglycerides, improve vascular health, help moderate blood pressure and decrease blood clotting.

Herbs or seeds

■ Cocoa seeds are a rich source of flavonoid antioxidants, which are especially important in preventing damage from LDL cholesterol, protecting arterial lining and preventing blood clots. Cocoa also contains arginine, a compound that increases blood vessel dilation.

■ Rosemary and mint are in the same herb family. Rosemary has been shown to increase blood flow to the brain, improving concentration and memory. Peppermint aroma has been found to enhance memory.

■ Sesame seeds are a rich source of the amino acid tyrosine, which is used to produce dopamine, a neurotransmitter responsible for keeping the brain alert and memory sharp. Sesame seeds also are rich in zinc, magnesium and vitamin B6, other nutrients involved in memory function.

■ Saffron has been shown to positively affect people with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease.

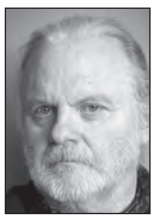
Making lifestyle modifications to control your cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure levels, as well as not smoking, taking daily walks and keeping your weight in a healthy range can help preserve memory function.—Lizzie Bertrand, Dietitian, Mayo Clinic Health System, St. James, Minnesota ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Healthy Living
Cutting board tips
Both wood and plastic cutting boards can harbor germs if they are not cleaned and sanitized well.
Washing
Use hot, soapy water
Sanitizing
Put board into dishwasher for a full cycle or pour boiling water on it
Drying
Air-dry board; avoid recontaminating it with a dirty dish towel
Using two boards
Use separate boards for cutting cooked, ready-to-eat foods and uncooked foods, which are more likely to carry bacteria
Source: Mayo Clinic, TNS Photo Service

Life & Style

Nobel literature prize goes to Norway's Jon Fosse

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Norwegian writer Jon Fosse, whose work tackles birth, death, faith and the other "elemental stuff" of life in spare Nordic prose, won the Nobel Prize for Literature on Thursday for writing that prize organizers said gives "voice to the unsayable."


Fosse

The novelist and playwright said the prize was recognition of "literature that first and foremost aims to be literature, without other considerations"—an ethos expressed in dozens of enigmatic plays, stories and novels, including a seven-book epic made up of a single sentence.

Fosse's work, rooted in his Norwegian background, "focuses on human insecurity and anxiety," Anders Olsson, chair of the Nobel literature committee, told The Associated Press. "The basic choices you make in life, very elemental stuff."

One of his country's most-performed dramatists, Fosse said he had "cautiously prepared" himself for a decade to receive the news that he had won.

"I was surprised when they called, yet at the same time not," the 64-year-old told Norwegian public broadcaster NRK. "It was a great joy for me to get the phone call."

Why did the Nobel Prize In Literature go to Jon Fosse?

The author of 40 plays as well as novels, short stories, children's books, poetry and essays, Fosse was honored "for his innovative plays and prose, which give voice to the unsayable," according to the Swedish Academy, which awards the prize.

Fosse has cited the bleak, enigmatic work of Irish writer Samuel Beckett—the 1969 Nobel literature laureate—as an influence on his sparse, minimalist style.

Edmund Austigard, executive officer of Fosse's publisher, Samlaget, said the author described his work as "slow writing and reading literature."

"It's not a type of literature that you bring to the beach and read in an hour or two," he said. "It's a type of literature ... that invites you into a unique world and invites you to stay there for a while."

What is the Nynorsk language?

While Fosse is the fourth Norwegian writer to get the literature prize, he is the first in nearly a century and the first who writes in Nynorsk, one of the two official written versions of the Norwegian language. It is used by just 10% of the country's 5.4 million people, according to the Language Council of Norway, but completely understandable to users of the other written form, Bokmaal.

Guy Puzey, senior lecturer in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, said Bokmaal is "the language of power, it's the language of urban centers, of the press." Nynorsk, by contrast, is used mainly by people in rural western Norway.

"So it's a really big day for a minority language," Puzey said.

Norway' culture minister, Lubna Jaffery, told news agency NTB that it was "a historic day for the Nynorsk language and Nynorsk literature."

Norway's Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson received the prize in 1903, Knut Hamsun was awarded it in 1920 and Sigrid Undset in 1928.

In recognition of his contribution to Norwegian culture, in 2011 Fosse was granted use of an honorary residence in the grounds of the Royal Palace.

What did Jon Fosse write?

His first novel, "Red, Black," was published in 1983, and his debut play, "Someone is Going to Come," in 1992.

His work "A New Name: Septology VI-VII"—described by Olsson as Fosse's magnum opus—was a finalist for the International Booker Prize in 2022. The final volume in a seven-novel exploration of life, death and spirituality contains no sentence breaks.

His other major prose works include "Melancholy;" "Morning and Evening," whose two parts depict a birth and a death; "Wakefulness;" and "Olav's Dreams."

His plays, which have been staged across Europe and in the United States, include "The Name," "Dream of Autumn" and "I am the Wind."

Fosse has also taught writing—one of his students was best-selling Norwegian novelist Karl Ove Knausgaard—and consulted on a Norwegian translation of the Bible.

How did Jon Fosse react to the news?

Mats Malm, permanent secretary of the academy, reached Fosse by telephone to inform him of the win. He said the writer, who lives in the western city of Bergen, was driving in the countryside and promised to drive home carefully.

"I stand here and feel a little numb, but of course very happy for the great honor," Fosse told Norway's TV2.

The Nobel Prizes carry a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor ($1 million) from a bequest left by their creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. Winners also receive an 18-carat gold medal and diploma at the award ceremonies in December.

Should I have heard of Jon Fosse?

Though his books have been translated into dozens of languages and his plays produced around the world, Fosse is what some critics might see as a classic, safe Nobel choice: A highbrow European man with little name recognition beyond small literary circles.

The prize has long faced criticism that it is too focused on European and North American writers of style-heavy, story-light prose. It's also male-dominated, with just 17 women among its 119 laureates, including last year's winner French author Annie Ernaux.

Others point out that the prize has gone in recent years to a strong mix of authors with both critical acclaim and robust sales, such as Kazuo Ishiguro, Mario Vargas Llosa and Alice Munro. And the most populist choice by the committee – 2016 laureate Bob Dylan – also sparked plenty of controversy and debate about whether his lyrics rose to the level of literature.

Publisher Austigard said Fosse's slow prose could be " just what we need and just what people are looking for" in a frenetic world.

"It's birth, it's love, it's death. It's about what it means to be a human being."

A man who tried to kill UK queen sentenced to 9 years

LONDON (AP)—A Star Wars fanatic who was encouraged by a chatbot "girlfriend" to assassinate Queen Elizabeth II was sentenced Thursday to nine years in prison for taking his plot to Windsor Castle, where he scaled the walls and was caught with a loaded crossbow nearly two years ago.

"I'm here to kill the queen," Jaswant Singh Chail, wearing a metal mask inspired by the dark force in the science fiction and fantasy franchise, declared on Christmas Day in 2021 when a police officer on the grounds of the castle asked, "Can I help, mate?"

As a Sikh Indian, Chail wanted to kill the monarch to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre when British troops opened fire on thousands of Indians gathered in Amritsar and killed hundreds, a judge said in reciting the facts of the crime.

Chail said the assassination was his life's mission, something he'd thought about since adolescence, but had only shared with Sarai, the artificial intelligence-generated "girlfriend" he created on Replika, which bills itself as "the AI companion who cares. Always here to listen and talk. Always on your side."

Justice Nicholas Hilliard said despite conflicting diagnoses from different experts, he concluded that Chail lost touch with reality and had become psychotic, but that the seriousness of the crimes required him to serve prison time. Chail will first be returned to Broadmoor Hospital, a secure psychiatric facility where he has been receiving treatment, and if deemed to be well enough in the future, he will serve the rest of his sentence in prison.

"The defendant harbored homicidal thoughts which he acted on before he became psychotic," Hilliard said. "His intention was not just to harm or alarm the sovereign—but to kill her."

Chail had planned his attack for months.

In the hours before dawn, he sprayed himself with solution to mask a human scent and walked with his crossbow from a Windsor motel where he had been staying to the castle. He tossed a grappling hook over the wall and climbed over on a rope ladder.

When the officer carrying a stun gun encountered him, Chail said he intended to kill the queen, but he then dropped the lethal weapon and surrendered.

Marriage, middle-aged son stuck in time for 30 years

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married since 1968. The last time we were intimate was in 1984. The house is in both of our names. Nine years ago, she asked one of our sons to come live with us. She never asked me how I felt about it.

Our son continues to live here, and he pays no rent or anything else toward our living expenses. He literally lives the life of a teenage boy, although he's almost 48. I pay all the household bills. He has a job and makes more than I do (my pension).

I do not want a boarder in my home, but I can hardly evict him. Our other four children are all successful, own their own homes and live the lives of responsible adults. Do I need a lawyer, or perhaps a backbone?

OVER IT IN OHIO

DEAR OVER IT: You may need both. Although it's late, consider also engaging the services of a licensed marriage and family therapist. I don't know what the laws about community assets in your state are, but a lawyer can enlighten you. Because your 48-year-old teenager has been living with you for so long, you may need one or both to pry him out of there.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Forty years ago, my husband had an affair that left me emotionally damaged. I took him back when he asked, and we went on with our lives—well, HE did. Even today, if I hear a song from that time or her name, I freak out. When I remember how he told me he loved her, something inside me dies.

I went to counseling, but all I got from it was a bill I couldn't afford. He treats me well and says "I love you" every day, yet the cut is still fresh and deep. Any suggestions?

LIKE YESTERDAY IN FLORIDA

DEAR LIKE YESTERDAY: After 40 years of torturing yourself, the memory of your husband's transgression has become ingrained. By holding onto this, you are only hurting yourself. You took him back after the affair but have never truly forgiven him, which is why you cannot let it go. Consider consulting another licensed mental health professional to see if there is any way for you to obliterate the intrusive memory of his betrayal.

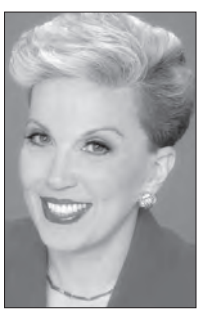
■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A friend is throwing a joint birthday party for herself, her daughter, son-in-law and sister. Their birthdays all fall in the same month. I am close to all of them. This joint celebration has been a ritual for the past three years, and presents are expected.

I have come to feel that this is unfair. For a single-day, one buffet party, I must buy presents for four people. I'm considering buying one decent present and having it raffled off among the four. What do you think? By the way, this also happens a few months later for her husband and son.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

PARTY POOPER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PARTY POOPER: I think it's fair IF all six people reciprocate when your birthday rolls around. If they don't, then when your friend's (the hostess's) birthday arrives, skip the party, entertain her separately, for lunch perhaps, and give her her present then.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

NOWADAYS, ADS DON'T JUST SELL A PRODUCT. THEY SELL AN ATTITUDE! LOOK AT THIS ONE!
HERE'S A COOL GUY SAYING NOBODY TELLS HIM WHAT TO DO. HE DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS AND HE BUYS THIS PRODUCT AS A REFLECTION OF THAT INDEPENDENCE.
SO BASICALLY, THIS MAVERICK IS URGING EVERYONE TO EXPRESS HIS INDIVIDUALITY THROUGH CONFORMITY IN BRAND-NAME SELECTION?
WELL, IT SOUNDED MORE DEFIANT THE WAY HE SAID IT.
MM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M RETURNING THIS SCALE.
LET ME GUESS. IT'S BROKEN.
RETURNS
NOT BROKEN. IT JUST... MOCKS ME.
M'KAY. I'M NOT REALLY SURE HOW TO...
DO YOU HAVE ANY OF A NON-MOCKING VARIETY?
WE'RE FRESH OUT, SIR.
RETURNS

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Y'ALL WAS SPEEDING.
HOW FAST WAS I GOING?
DON'T KNOW. WE DON'T USE RADAR GUNS.
WHAT KIND OF BACK-WOODS POLICE FORCE DOESN'T USE RADAR GUNS?
THE KIND THAT CAN TELL WHEN SOMEONE IS GOING FASTER THAN A POSSUM GETTIN' CHASED BY A RED-TAILED HAWK AT SUPPER TIME.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

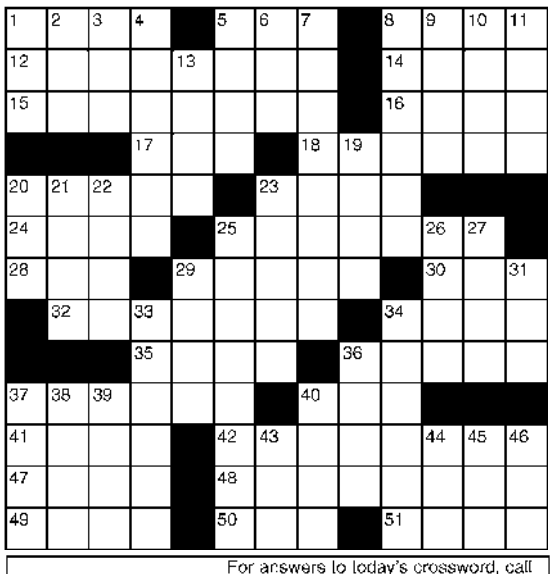
1 Bean curd
5 Have a bug
8 Car door damage
12 "M*A*S*H" star
14 Writer Wiesel
15 Margarita spirits
16 Barn roof topper
17 Mexican Mrs.
18 Chop-house orders
20 Pinnacles
23 Tech news website
24 De-posited
25 Chiefs
28 Right angle
29 Coconut providers
30 Nosh
32 Predict
34 Sleek, in car lingo
35 United — Emirates
36 Stan's buddy
37 Harry Potter's owl
40 Belief
41 Okla-homa tribe
42 Seasonal saint
47 Crooned
48 Little Rock's state
49 Men-only
50 Firma-ment
51 Attic buildup

DOWN

1 Body art, for short
2 Yucatan "Bravo!"
3 Online info list
4 New
5 Penne — Vodka
6 Journalist Tarbell
7 Family tree entry
8 Commit, as time
9 Flair
10 Prime-time hour
11 Golf pegs
13 Melodies
19 Dorm furniture
20 Pub serving
21 Young cow
22 Actor O'Shea
23 Star
25 Layered pasta entrees
26 Stagger
27 Rani's dress
29 Gilpin of "Frasier"
31 Small digit
33 Steak tartare ingre-dient
34 Candy bar nut
36 Job-safety org.
37 "Bonan-za" son
38 Coup d'—
39 Lady of Spain
40 Gross
43 Annoy
44 Baton Rouge sch.
45 Small batteries
46 Retired jet

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's Answer



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brandon Routh, 44; Scott Bakula, 69; Tony Shalhoub, 70; Sharon Osbourne, 71.

Happy Birthday: Keep your overhead low and your spirits high. Setting a budget that helps you save for something unique will give you something to look forward to and make you feel good about your choices. Refuse to let the little things get to you or allow negative people to bring you down. Enjoy your dreams, but adhere to common sense. You'll enjoy long-term gains. Discipline is the key to your success. Your numbers are 7, 15, 24, 28, 31, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take the path of least resistance. Refuse to let changes going on around you throw you off guard. Make your plans and form alliances with people with something unique to contribute. Consider an unusual suggestion, but tweak it to fit your needs. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Dodge anyone who wants to debate. Put your plan in place and head in a direction that offers the momentum you require to be successful. Refuse to let emotions or outside influences take over when what's necessary is for you to take control. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider what life can offer and set a budget that allows you to participate. Don't jeopardize your position, reputation or personal stability for someone or something that benefits others more than you. Keep your plans to yourself to avoid interference. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Refuse to let the past ruin your plans. Don't allow someone to push you to make changes you aren't ready to adopt. By getting involved in something you believe in, you'll change your mind about the steps you want to take in your personal life. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Practicality is necessary to maintain a good reputation and keep troublemakers at bay. Think, plan and promote your intentions, but don't give away secrets that offer someone a chance to undermine your next move. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take better care of yourself and your relationships with others. How you react and proceed will impact and fuel others' fire to pitch in and help. Enforce change and follow through, and something good will transpire. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Let passion drive you; your intelligence will help you get the most out of every move you make. Put together a plan that will ease stress and help you ward off any negativity that comes your way. Protect against pushy people and health risks. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Evaluate your situation at home and work, and consider how best to achieve greater equality between the two. Less tension will lower stress and give you peace of mind, making you better equipped to maneuver your way forward. Patience will lead to stability. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay attention, learn as you go and rely on yourself, not hearsay. Trust your instincts and verbalize your intention with the strength and courage to follow through. Refuse to let an outsider interfere with what works best for you. Stay on track. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep your thoughts to yourself. Don't allow anyone to checkmate you. Take the road that enables you to invest in yourself and your objectives instead of bowing to someone else's whims. Take the stage. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Seize the moment and make things happen. Put everything you've got into what you want, and you will make your mark. Protect your money, health and reputation from anyone trying to infiltrate what you've accumulated. Someone will test your patience; stay calm. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Revisit an old plan or partnership. Check your emotions at the door and approach new beginnings with common sense and practicality. An offer may entice you, but don't invest in someone else when you should be investing in yourself. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, generous and persistent. You are changeable and resourceful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	9			7			8	4
4	5		8	9				6
8	1		6	2	4			5
	7		2		8		6	
	8	4	9				5	
		3					7	
	4				2			7
7			5	8				3
		5		4		1	2	8

Difficulty: ★ 10/9

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	4	5	7	8	3	1	6	2
3	2	7	1	6	5	8	4	9
1	6	8	2	9	4	3	5	7
6	5	1	3	2	9	4	7	8
8	9	3	4	5	7	6	2	1
2	7	4	6	1	8	5	9	3
4	8	6	9	7	1	2	3	5
5	3	9	8	4	2	7	1	6
7	1	2	5	3	6	9	8	4

Difficulty: ★★★★ 10/9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ASTRONOMY IN 2023 Solution: 9 letters

S	Y	E	R	X	M	C	N	A	U	G	H	T	R	S
T	U	K	O	A	R	T	E	M	I	S	B	E	O	E
A	A	N	S	E	N	O	O	G	A	L	L	T	I	
R	H	S	A	T	A	Y	M	O	I	X	A	E	C	S
S	U	M	A	R	E	T	T	S	E	R	C	S	E	M
H	B	P	A	N	U	L	U	H	O	U	K	C	L	I
I	B	A	S	G	O	L	L	R	G	A	H	O	F	C
P	L	N	T	Y	N	I	B	A	N	I	O	P	E	W
A	E	O	O	A	V	I	T	A	F	N	L	E	R	A
L	L	R	B	I	T	A	T	A	R	A	E	B	I	V
Q	B	O	O	E	R	X	E	U	G	N	N	B	N	E
A	I	C	R	E	V	O	M	H	D	N	A	E	G	S
R	S	U	P	E	R	N	O	V	A	E	O	W	S	E
N	I	T	S	U	A	T	C	S	R	A	L	L	I	P
I	V	E	N	U	S	E	C	A	P	S	O	R	E	A

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Aerospace, Aqarni, Artemis, Austin, Axiom, Axon, Barnawi, Black Hole, Comet, Corona, Crest, Elongation, Heavy, Hubble, IAU, Lagoon, Light-year, Magnitude, McNaught, Move, NASA, Orion, Pillars, Reflector, Rings, Robots, Saturn, Seismic Waves, Sky, Solar Orbiter, Starship, Stellafane, Supernova, Telescope, Uranus, Venus, Visible, Webb

Last Friday's Answer: Curry

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Moreno hits 3-run homer off Kershaw as D-backs beat Dodgers in NLDS opener

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gabriel Moreno's three-run homer highlighted a six-run first inning for Arizona, and the Diamondbacks battered Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw on the way to an 11-2 victory in Game 1 of their NL Division Series on Saturday night.

Merrill Kelly finally beat the Dodgers for the first time. Making his first career postseason start at age 34, the right-hander came in with an 0-11 record and a 5.49 ERA in 16 starts against LA.

Kelly limited the NL West champions to three hits in 6 1/3 innings, the last one coming leading off the third on Miguel Rojas' single.

Game 2 of the best-of-five series is Monday night in LA.

Kershaw staggered through the worst start and shortest of his 16-year career. The three-time Cy Young Award winner got tagged for six runs and recorded just one out in the 100th postseason game at Dodger Stadium.

Corbin Carroll, Alek Thomas and Tommy Pham also homered for Arizona. Pham had four of the Diamondbacks' 13 hits.

Will Smith hit a two-run triple for Los Angeles in the eighth inning. The NL West champions finished with four hits.

AP

Arizona Diamondbacks' Gabriel Moreno, right, celebrates with teammate Christian Walker after hitting a three-run home run during the first inning in Game 1 of a baseball NL Division Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023, in Los Angeles.

ASTROS 6, TWINS 4

HOUSTON (AP)—Justin Verlander pitched six shutout innings and Yordan Alvarez homered twice, leading Houston to the victory in its AL Division Series opener.

Jose Altuve hit a leadoff home run and Alvarez had three RBIs as the defending World Series champions won their 2023 playoff debut to earn their 10th straight victory in Game 1 of a Division Series.

Former Astros star Carlos Correa had two hits for the AL Central champion Twins, who finished 1 for 12 with runners in scoring position after going 1 for 10 in the Wild Card Series against Toronto.

Verlander settled in after a shaky start and the Astros built a 5-0 lead through six innings with big swings from Altuve and Alvarez.

Jorge Polanco and rookie Royce Lewis hit consecutive homers off Héctor Neris in the seventh to make it 5-4.

Alvarez gave Houston an insurance run in the bottom half when he became the first left-handed hitter to homer off Caleb Thielbar this season.

Bryan Abreu got four outs for the Astros, and Ryan Pressly worked a scoreless ninth for the save.

The best-of-five series continues Sunday night in Houston.

RANGERS 3, ORIOLES 2

BALTIMORE (AP)—Andrew Heaney and Dane Dunning helped Texas reach the sixth inning with a lead, and the Rangers' maligned bullpen held on through some anxious moments against Baltimore in Game 1 of their AL Division Series.

Josh Jung homered and made a nice play at third base to start a critical double play for Texas, which improved to 3-0 in these playoffs—all on the road.

Game 2 in the best-of-five series is Sunday at Camden Yards.

Will Smith, Josh Sborz, Aroldis Chapman and José Leclerc combined to get the final 10 outs for the Rangers—but not without some drama.

Sborz threw seven straight balls to start the seventh but pitched around a leadoff walk. Chapman worked out of trouble in the eighth. Leclerc earned the save, although he allowed a leadoff single in the ninth to Gunnar Henderson. All-Star catcher Jonah Heim threw out Henderson trying to steal second, and the Orioles didn't manage another baserunner.

Kyle Bradish struck out nine in 4 2/3 innings for the Orioles but allowed two runs in the fourth to take the loss. Jung and Santander traded solo homers in the sixth.

PHILLIES 3, BRAVES 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Bryce Harper homered, Ranger Suárez and the Philadelphia bullpen stifled baseball's most prolific offense, and the Phillies blanked the 104-win Atlanta Braves in Game 1 of their NL Division Series.

In a playoff rematch between division rivals, the East champion Braves find themselves in exactly the same position as a year ago: trailing the wild-card Phillies after the opener at Truist Park.

The Phillies went on to a 3-1 upset of the Braves in 2022 on an improbable run to the World Series. Now, they're up again heading to Game 2 in the best-of-five series Monday night in Atlanta.

Bryson Stott broke a scoreless tie with a run-scoring single in the fourth inning. Harper padded the lead with a drive in the sixth off Spencer Strider, baseball's only 20-game winner.

It was just the third time all year—and first since May 12=—that Atlanta failed to score. It was the first time the Braves were shut out at home all season.

The mood turned ugly in the eighth when the Phillies made it 3-0 on catcher's interference against Sean Murphy with the bases loaded. After the call was reviewed and upheld, there was a brief delay when a handful of fans threw trash on the field.

Dodgers' Kershaw chased in 1st inning of NLDS against Diamondbacks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw sat in the dugout with his eyes downcast before putting his head in his hands.

He had just crashed out of Game 1 of the NL Division Series, getting tagged for six runs and recording just one out against the Arizona Diamondbacks in an 11-2 loss Saturday night.

"It's a tough way to start the postseason," a subdued Kershaw said. "Obviously, we still have a chance at this thing but that wasn't the way it should have started for me."

The three-time Cy Young Award winner had never made a start in which he had pitched less than one inning. Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts had expected Kershaw to throw about 85 pitches.

Instead, he was gone after 35.

"I don't think anybody in the baseball world was expecting that," teammate Freddie Freeman said.

Five batters up and five runs scored without an out in the first.

"It's just embarrassing really," Kershaw said. "I just feel like I let everybody down."

Kershaw, 35, had two strikes on five of his eight batters while allowing the most runs in any first inning in the franchise's postseason history. It was his shortest outing as a starter in his 16-year career, all spent with the Dodgers.

"Obviously, I didn't make some great pitches and then sometimes I thought I did make some good ones and they hit them too," he said.

Roberts said Kershaw will return to start Game 4 in Phoenix.

"I'll be ready," Kershaw said.

The left-hander has a checkered career when it comes to the playoffs. He is 13-13 with a 4.49 ERA in the postseason, compared to a regular-season record of 210-92 with a 2.48 ERA.

Kershaw, who is eligible for free agency after this season, missed six weeks with a shoulder injury that neither he nor the Dodgers have said much about. The team carefully managed his outings, which did not go beyond 5 1/3 innings in eight starts since coming off the injured list on Aug. 10.

"There's nothing health-related here," he said afterward. "Just bad pitching."

Kershaw had a 2.22 ERA over his final five outings in the regular season, so few could have predicted what happened in the NLDS opener — a brief performance that left the Dodger Stadium crowd in stunned silence.

"It was more shocking," Roberts said.

Kershaw gave up a leadoff double to Ketel Marte after the ball went off the glove of center fielder James Outman. Corbin Carroll followed with a RBI single, making it 1-0.

Tommy Pham singled to left and Christian Walker doubled off the base of the bullpen gate for a 2-0 lead.

Gabriel Moreno came up next and belted a three-run shot to left.

"Usually Clayton does a great job of controlling, managing damage," Roberts said.

Kershaw retired Lourdes Gurriel Jr. on a grounder to shortstop, needing 26 pitches to get the first out of the inning. He became the first first starting pitcher in MLB postseason history to allow five hits and five runs before recording an out, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

Kershaw then walked Alek Thomas. That set up Evan Longoria's RBI double to left-center, extending Arizona's lead to 6-0.

"Regardless of anything that happened out there, I have to be better," he said. "That's just not acceptable."

Rookie Emmet Sheehan came in and got two quick outs to end the inning, striking out Geraldo Perdomo and retiring Marte on a groundout.

Kershaw recorded his 200th career victory April 18 against the New York Mets, becoming just the third pitcher in franchise history to accomplish the feat.

He got his 10th All-Star selection, tying Pee Wee Reese for the most by a Dodgers player. On Sept. 10, he notched his 210th career win, overtaking Don Drysdale for second-most in franchise history. He finished the regular season with a 13-5 mark and 2.46 ERA. He had 137 strikeouts in 131 2/3 innings, his most since 2019.

Injuries limited Kershaw's outings in 2019, 2020 and 2021. He won his first World Series title during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

Game 1 of ALDS between Orioles, Rangers delayed by rain

BALTIMORE (AP)—Game 1 of the AL Division Series between the Baltimore Orioles and Texas Rangers has started after a rain delay of 1 hour, 13 minutes on Saturday.

The game was scheduled to start at 1:03 p.m., which seemed to leave enough time to avoid overlap with a 7 p.m. concert next door at M&T Bank Stadium featuring Billy Joel and Stevie Nicks. But it could be close thanks to the bad weather.

It was 63 degrees Fahrenheit under a blue sky by the time Kyle Bradish delivered the first pitch for the Orioles' first home playoff game since 2014. Former Baltimore star Adam Jones threw out the ceremonial first pitch and longtime Orioles fan Joan Jett sang the national anthem.

Fields, Moore lead Bears to first win, beating Commanders, 40-20

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Music blared from the Chicago Bears locker room after a victory for the first time in almost a year, and players danced and jumped around with joy.

All thanks to Justin Fields and DJ Moore being perfectly in tune.

Fields and Moore connected eight times for 230 yards and three touchdowns to give the embattled Bears their first win of the season, beating the Washington Commanders 40-20 Thursday night, hours after word emerged of the death of franchise great Dick Butkus.

"We just needed a win, get the mojo going in our favor," Moore said. "It felt amazing to get the first win under our belts."

Relief was palpable at the end of a 14-game skid dating to last season — since Oct. 24, 2022, the last time they won a game. All the off-field drama the organization has been mired in for weeks melted away in the moments of celebration.

"The feeling that we all had after the game is a feeling that you just never want it to end," Fields said. "Just proud of the way all the guys game out and played."

Fields had four touchdown passes to match his career high set last week, this time coming in a winning effort as Chicago (1-4) jumped out to a 24-point halftime lead and, unlike Sunday, held on.

"He's a heck of a good, young football player," Commanders coach Ron Rivera said.

Fields threw for 282 yards and ran for 57 yards, including a rush for a first down late in the third quarter after tipping the ball to himself following a high snap. Moore had 137 yards receiving in the first half alone, becoming the first Bears player to surpass 125 before halftime since at least 2000 and eventually reaching a career high.

"This morning I was nervous—out of this world nervous," Moore said. "I guess that was my body telling me that we were about to go off."

It was such an impressive showing that it got the attention of LeBron James, who posted on social media: "J Fields and DJ Moore going crazy right now!!! SHEESH!!"

AP

Chicago Bears quarterback Justin Fields (1) gestures after throwing a touchdown pass to wide receiver DJ Moore during the first half of an NFL football game against the Washington Commanders, Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023, in Landover, Md.

The Bears also got a defensive performance that felt like a fitting way to honor Butkus, the fearsome Hall of Fame linebacker who died at age 80 earlier Thursday. They forced two turnovers and sacked Sam Howell five times in bouncing back from blowing a 21-point lead and losing to Denver.

"We harped all week on finishing," said Greg Stroman, a former Washington cornerback who picked off Howell. "We do great things as a team. We played well for three strong quarters last week, so just were building off that and that was the message: Build off that and finish."

Washington (2-3) lost a third consecutive game, this time struggling with missed tackles and blown coverage on defense, while again failing to force a turnover. Couple that with Howell's interception, and there was a reason the Commanders were booed off the field at halftime by fans who again packed FedEx Field for another sellout.

Their second-half comeback bid fell short, stunted by Logan Thomas fumbling, a later drive stalling in the red zone and Joey Slye missing a 46-yard field goal attempt with five minutes left. Washington got as close as 10 points, but couldn't end its losing streak and keep Chicago's going.

"It starts at the top," Rivera said. "That's on me."

Chicago got its four longest plays of the season: 58-, 39-yard and 56-yard completions from Fields to Moore and a 34-yard run by Khalil Herbert. Three of those came in the first quarter alone.

Bears' linebacker Tremaine Edmunds received medical attention late and walked off the field. Center Lucas Patrick and rookie running back Roschon Johnson underwent concussion evaluation during the second quarter and were quickly ruled out for the remainder of the game. Receiver Equanimeous St. Brown and running back Travis Homer each left with a hamstring injury.

Washington lost two key special teams players early in the first quarter. All-Pro Jeremy Reaves left with a knee injury and second-year defensive back Christian Holmes with a hamstring injury. Defensive tackle John Ridgeway was injured late.

Goodell says NFL may add new international host for game in 2024

LONDON (AP)—The NFL could stage a game in yet another international location as early as 2024, commissioner Roger Goodell said Saturday.

Goodell spoke at a fans' forum in London, which is hosting three games this season before the international slate switches to Germany for two games in November.

The league recently confirmed that cities in Spain and Brazil are under review as potential hosts in the future.

"I do see us playing in more markets very soon, as early as next year," Goodell said. "We actually have three or four markets that are here this weekend and next weekend that are interested in hosting a game."

The NFL declined to comment beyond Goodell's answers at the fan event.

The league has made an aggressive push internationally by adding a 17th game to the schedule to facilitate games abroad and giving teams marketing rights in various countries.

League officials have made site visits to Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil and Madrid in Spain where they were "building relationships, looking at the stadia there, looking at the operations partners, the infrastructure," said Peter O'Reilly, the NFL's executive vice president for club business, and international and league events, in a recent media call.

Twenty-one teams are participating in the NFL's global markets program in 2023 across 14 international countries. The league has expressed interest in bringing games to several of those markets and hasn't ruled out putting a franchise overseas in the future.

Under the global markets program, the Chicago Bears and Miami Dolphins have commercial rights in Spain. The Dolphins are the only team with rights in Brazil.

With newly attained rights in Ireland, the Pittsburgh Steelers are trying to grow their fan base there in hopes of eventually staging a regular-season game at Croke Park in Dublin.

Under the expanded schedule, NFC teams get nine home games in 2024, which at least opens the door for the possibility of the Bears playing in Spain next season.

Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabéu Stadium has nearly finished major renovations, including a soccer pitch that retracts to make way for an artificial turf field that can be used for American football with a capacity over 80,000. Atlético Madrid's Wanda Metropolitano Stadium seats 68,000.

The first regular-season game in Germany last year was considered a success. Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the Seattle Seahawks 21-16 in Munich.

The German city of Frankfurt hosts two games this season, the first being the Kansas City Chiefs against the Dolphins on Nov. 5.

The Jacksonville Jaguars face the Buffalo Bills on Sunday at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The Jags beat the Atlanta Falcons 23-7 last week at Wembley Stadium. It's the first time a team is playing consecutive games abroad. They have another year left on a three-year deal to play an annual home game at Wembley.

London has hosted 34 of the 46 regular-season games the NFL has staged internationally.

"We will not stop playing games in the UK, but we will play more games in other markets because we want to be a global sport," Goodell said. "We intend to be a global sport."

Goodell answered the "London franchise" question even before it was asked Saturday at the annual fans' Q&A. Potential scheduling problems during the playoffs would be "a tough dynamic," he said.

Goodell has previously said London has the capacity for two franchises and has even floated the idea of having a full European division of teams.

The Jaguars, though, have opened a $120 million training facility and unveiled conceptual designs for a $1.4 billion stadium project that could tie the team to Jacksonville for decades.

Goodell all but ruled out staging a Super Bowl in London or any other city where there's no NFL team.

"For us to play a Super Bowl in a city where we don't have a franchise, that would be pretty hard to do," he said.

Source: Taylor, Colts agreed on 3-year, $42M extension

All-Pro running back Jonathan Taylor and the Indianapolis Colts agreed on a contract extension Saturday, the team announced.

A person with knowledge of the details told The Associated Press the deal is worth $42 million, with $26.5 million guaranteed, over three years. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the terms have not been revealed publicly.

San Francisco's Christian McCaffrey ($16 million annually) and New Orleans' Alvin Kamara ($15 million) are now the only running backs making more money than Taylor per year.

The agreement was announced after the Colts activated Taylor (ankle) from the the physically unable to perform list and removed the questionable designation from his status for Sunday's game against the Tennessee Titans (2-2).

Taylor started the season on the list following ankle surgery and an ugly offseason contract dispute. He missed all of the team's offseason workouts and all of training camp while rehabbing from surgery.

Taylor had been frustrated with the amount of money teams are paying running backs. He complained about league owners undervaluing running backs in general, citing the $10.1 million franchise tag number. It's the lowest of any position other than kickers or punters.

He eventually made a trade request and the Colts gave him permission to find a trade partner. ***(AP)***

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Embiid decides to play for USA—not France—in Paris Olympics

Joel Embiid will wear red, white and blue in Paris next summer—not rouge, blanc and bleu.

The NBA's reigning MVP and scoring champion has told USA Basketball that, after more than a year of deliberating, he has picked the Americans over France as his team for the Paris Olympics.

The Philadelphia 76ers' star let USA Basketball managing director Grant Hill know his mind was made up and then made the decision public on Thursday. And one of the reasons Embiid cited in what had him pick the U.S.: His son is American.

"I've been here for such a long time," Embiid said in Fort Collins, Colorado, where the 76ers are having training camp—and where Embiid met with Hill this week. "For the past few years, every decision I've made has been based on just family. My family, my son, and having the chance to represent a country like the U.S., with my son being born here ... I love my home country, but I really wanted to play in the Olympics."

France had given Embiid an Oct. 10 deadline for deciding on his Olympic plans. Embiid said he appreciated the interest the French showed in him.

"I was trying to take my time as much as possible," Embiid said. "It was kind of made hard by the deadline. But I'm happy with it."

USA Basketball does not plan to name its team until the spring of 2024, but if healthy, Embiid would seem certain to have one of the 12 spots on the squad that will be coached by Golden State's Steve Kerr with assistants Erik Spoelstra of Miami, Tyronn Lue of the Los Angeles Clippers and Mark Few of Gonzaga.

AP
Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid poses for a photograph during media day at the NBA basketball team's practice facility, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, in Camden, N.J.

"It's exciting for USA Basketball that Joel Embiid wants to represent the United States," Hill said. "Joel and I have had several conversations about his goals and I'm looking forward to continuing that dialogue knowing that one of those goals is to represent USA Basketball next summer in Paris. As I've said before, I'm looking forward to the process of building the 2024 USA Basketball Men's National Team roster over the next several months."

No player has been officially named to the team at this point.

"The stronger the team, the better," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich, who coached the Americans at the 2019 World Cup and then to gold at the Tokyo Games, said Thursday when told of Embiid's decision. "International competition is tough. ... That's great for us."

The U.S. will try for a fifth consecutive gold medal at Paris next summer. Embiid joins a long list of top NBA players who are hoping or planning to play for the U.S. next summer, including Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant, LeBron James, Bam Adebayo, Devin Booker and many more.

"You want to play with great players," Embiid said. "But I didn't think about that at all."

Adebayo had a simple reaction when he heard the Embiid news: "We're looking stacked," he said at Miami's training camp in Boca Raton, Florida.

James was succinct when he heard the news at Los Angeles Lakers' camp: "Great. Big time," he said, grinning when told by reporters there.

Embiid became a U.S. citizen last year and could have also chosen to play for France—or even Cameroon, his homeland, if it qualified for the Paris Games. Cameroon will be among 24 teams playing for the final four spots in the 12-nation Olympic field next summer; the U.S., France, World Cup champion Germany, Serbia, Canada, Australia, Japan and South Sudan have already qualified for Paris.

Sixers wrap up camp with Harden situation still up in air

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP)—Behind the doors inside Moby Arena, there's the blare of a DJ spinning tunes. There's also the frequent sound of a shrill whistle as new Philly coach Nick Nurse halts practice to offer pointers on the free-flowing offense he's installing.

Those are the sounds the 76ers hear at the moment.

The noise around disgruntled guard James Harden and his trade demand have been tuned out. Harden's been steadily ramping up his participation during a training camp held on the campus at Colorado State that came to a close Friday. His teammates insisted his situation hasn't been a distraction.

For however long he may be with Philadelphia—a week, a month, the trade deadline, all season—the Sixers players aren't focused on anything other than hoops. They're learning the nuances of Nurse's offense, which includes more overall involvement than a year ago when NBA MVP Joel Embiid led the league in points per game (33.1) and Harden in assists per game (10.7).

"Energy's been great. Everybody's been great," forward P.J. Tucker said Friday as the team began making its way east for its first preseason game at Boston on Sunday. "Everybody's been all smiles and just getting out there and competing and doing what you do in camp. It's been good."

The vibe remained loose around camp, too, with a DJ brought in to play some music. They also made their way to Boulder to have dinner with and listen to Colorado coach Deion Sanders.

It masks some of the noise coming from the outside.

In June, Harden picked up his $35.6 million contract option for this season. He was hoping the team would try to trade him. When a deal didn't happen, he blasted team President Daryl Morey at a promotional event in China and called Morey a liar.

Harden skipped the team's media day in New Jersey on Monday before arriving in Colorado. Over the last few days, the 10-time All-Star has worked his way into more drills and scrimmages. On Friday, he went through everything, Nurse said. After practice, Harden ran the stairs inside the arena.

"We're just trying to focus on getting the offense together and defense together, figure out how to play together," Embiid said Thursday. "We don't have a lot of time. We want to win and that's the goal."

Nurse takes over for Doc Rivers, the former Sixers coach who never led the team past the second round of the playoffs. Nurse has been preaching the little things in training camp—timing, rotation, speed of the feet—in an offense designed to get everyone more involved. He's adding new defenses, too.

MITCHELL

From page 20

Mitchell defeated him to advance to the finals. Pangelinan defeated his brother, Sam, in the semis to get the last finals slot against Mitchell.

Mitchell, an 8th grade student at Grace Christian Academy, said that he felt proud of himself and happy for winning gold.

He said the finals was a tough matchup as Pangelinan was "pretty heavy, so it was hard to carry him and push him out of the way. My strategy was to get the takedown at first and as soon as I got the takedown, I decided to just keep guard and win by points."

Mitchell added that Pangelinan was his toughest opponent out of his two matches "because he really used his weight as an advantage to put more weight on me. But in the end, I was able to overcome it."

Mitchell said that jiu-jitsu is a fun and entertaining sport and thanked his coach, Justis "Cuki" Alvarez for teaching him all the strategies he's learned. He also thanked his supporters who cheered him on during his matches.

In the Patgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Tournament Spring 2023 last April 22 at the University of Guam, Mitchell won silver in the No-Gi category and bronze in the Gi category.

Results of the other weight classes will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

MOC

From page 20

junior girls distance race as the lone paddler, while in the women's distance race, Erryne Dasalla was first, followed by MOC's Pipit Ball, and MOC's Momoka Halstead.

Philip Aldan came in first in the junior boy's, followed by second place Tyler Andrew, also of SPC.

Carter Calma placed first in the men's distance race, second went to SPC's Joe Weaver, and third was MOC's Richard Salas.

In the V1 500m sprints held last Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, in the junior girls division, Mendiola claimed first overall again with 40 points after winning both heats; and SPC's Eva Weaver came in second with 30 points.

Andrew paddled to first in the junior boys 500m sprints with 40 points, while Aldan took second with 30 points.

In the women's 500m sprints, Ball rushed to first place overall after winning both heats for 40 points, followed by SPC's Jenisha Dubrall in second with 30 points, and Halstead in third with 20 points.

MOC's Jose Quan paddled to a close first place in the men's 500m sprints with 30 points; MOC's Jason Tarkong was second with 28 points; and third was Calma with 25 points.

Justin Andrew, president of the NMNPSF, said that "overall, the season went very well—we are blessed with good weather and great athletes who trained hard and brought out the best paddling skills in them."

He said that many of the paddlers are new, but that there are a good number of veteran paddlers, and with that, "I'd say we have a good pool of very skilled and talented athletes who will help contribute to the overall improvement and the development of the sports in the coming years.

As for the top paddlers of the season, Andrew said they are "continuously challenged by our new and very energetic batch of young adult paddlers—these young adult paddlers are willing to learn everything there is to learn about the sports so they can be the best—I see this as a great way to improve each paddler's skills and, overall, it contributes to the development of the va'a program."

MARPAC

From page 20

of the Governor, 62-54, last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Last Saturday, Priority Care held their own against the mighty MarPac team in the first quarter for a close 21-23 game. It was a very physical game with back-to-back fouls from both teams which led to a heated game that resulted in not only baskets, but also words thrown around.

Despite that, MarPac established dominance in the second quarter and put on cruise control from there on as their triple threat of Jeff Castro, Coby Santos, and Greg Sablan, put in the work.

Priority Care's fire was extinguished even as their Top 2 scorers—Matthew Duenas and Steve King—tried to reignite it in the third quarter.

By the fourth quarter, Priority Care lagged behind while MarPac exploded from accuracy within the paint and fast-break plays that a fatigued Priority Care could not catch up to.

Castro's 30 points was unmatched as he led the game, while he was assisted by Santos and Sablan's 26 points each. For Priority Care, King managed to put up 27 points despite being well guarded, while Duenas had 22 markers.

The Federals' game against the Office of the Governor was also quite physical as last-minute fouls toward the end of the last quarter determined the win for the Federals.

Leo Apelo led the charge throughout the game for the Federals as they took on a dynamic Office of the Governor team. Apelo made crucial free throws to put the Federals up in the last quarter as the Office of the Governor went on to fail in producing shots that stuck.

While it was a close game in the first half with the Office of the Governor not far behind, the Federals began to pull away—though not by much, in the third quarter. Apelo and Terence Leung sealed the deal in the last quarter as they collected 19 markers each. Chris Sanchez contributed 12.

Office of the Governor's Leo Galarse made 13 points and Vince Igitol had 12.

In other results, the Office of the Governor came back to win last Saturday over CUC, 84-69, and Joeten defeated PSS, 72-64.

SATURDAY

MarPac 107 – Castro 30, Santos 26, Sablan 26, Babauta 12, Lee 7, Mettao 6.

Priority Care 71 – King 27, Duenas 22, Rabauliman 7, Maratita 7, Agulto 4, Pelisamen 2, Mafnas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-21, 50-33, 75-56, 107-71.

THURSDAY

Federals 62 – Leung 19, Apelo 19, Sanchez 12, Sablan 8, Che 4.

Office of the Governor 54 – Galarse 13, Igitol 12, Aranda 8, T. Pangelinan 6, Camacho 6, Flores 6, Ogumoro 3.

Scoring by quarters: 8-7, 22-18, 44-32, 62-54.

Moreno hits 3-run homer off Kershaw as D-backs beat Dodgers in NLDS opener.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Embiid decides to play for USA—not France—in Paris Olympics.

PAGE 19

Mitchell wins gold in Påtgon Jiu-Jitsu tourney

LEIGH GASES

Gabriel Mitchell, center, gold medalist of the Absolute weight class in the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament, is joined on the podium by second place Elijah Pangelinan and third place Hudson Igisomar at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

LEIGH GASES

Gabriel Mitchell, on mat, grapples Elijah Pangelinan during the finals match of the Absolute weight class in the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With just two years of jiu-jitsu experience under his belt, rising star Gabe Mitchell took the gold medal home in the Absolute (161 lb-200 lb) weight class of the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Saturday.

In a single-elimination format, the 13-year-old racked up the most points in the finals against a slightly burlier Elijah Pangelinan who settled for silver. The two grappled for about five minutes as they tried to get the other to submit.

However, both were evenly matched as Mitchell would pin down Pangelinan, but Pangelinan would snake out of it and reverse the advantage. In the end, Mitchell upped his guard and had more control and takedowns and won via points scored.

Third place in the division went to Hudson Igisomar after

See MITCHELL on Page 19

MOC, SPC dominate '23 va'a season

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation's 2023 season came to a close last Oct. 1, with participating paddling clubs boasting podium finishes in their respective categories.

Marianas Outrigger Club, Saipan Paddling Club, and Marianas Pacific Paddlers put it all out in the waters off Kilili Beach in the almost three-month long season—with MOC racking up wins in team categories, while SPC topping individual categories.

MOC dominated the women's division as they won first place overall in the V6 long distance, V6 500m sprints, V6 1,000m sprints, and V12 500m sprints.

In the men's division, MOC came in first in the V6 long distance, V6 500m sprints, V6 1,000m sprints, and V6 long distance races. SPC won first place in the V12 500m sprints.

In the two V1 distance races held last Aug. 26 and Sept. 26, SPC bagged first place overall finishes.

Gracie Mendiola topped the

See MOC on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Outrigger Club V12 women's team won first place in the V12 500m sprints of the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation's 2023 season as it ended last Oct. 1 at the Kilili Beach in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First place in the V12 500m sprints, Saipan Paddling Club V12 men's team, including Justin Andrew, far left, poses for a photo as the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation's 2023 season as it ended last Oct. 1 at the Kilili Beach in Susupe.

MarPac still perfect; Feds hand Office of the Gov.'s first loss

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MarPac cagers are still the golden boys of the Inaugural R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 with a 5-0 record, while the Federals handed the erstwhile undefeated Office of the Governor their first loss, setting their record to 3-1.

MarPac blew Priority Care out of the court, 107-71, last Saturday, while Federals stunned the Office

See MARPAC on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

MarPac's Jeff Castro drives past Priority Care's Marvin Rabauliman during their game in the Inaugural R&J Wine and Liquor Inter Government/Business League 2023 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.